CLASSICS Illustrated®

YOUR DOORWAY TO THE CLASSICS

George Eliot

SILAS MARNER

& Notes

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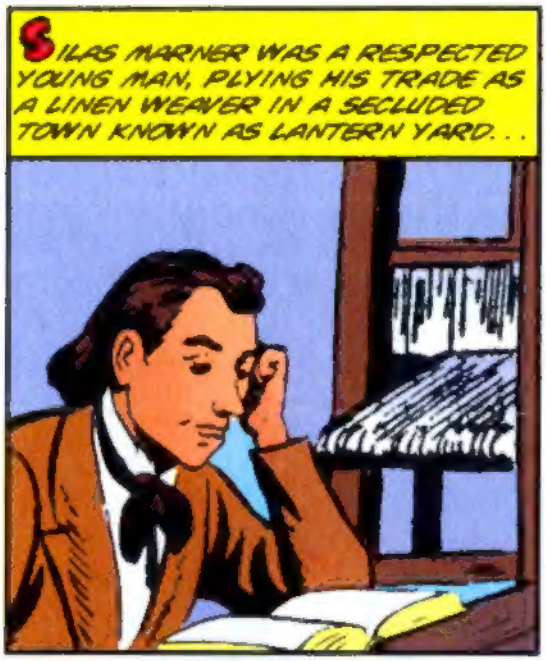
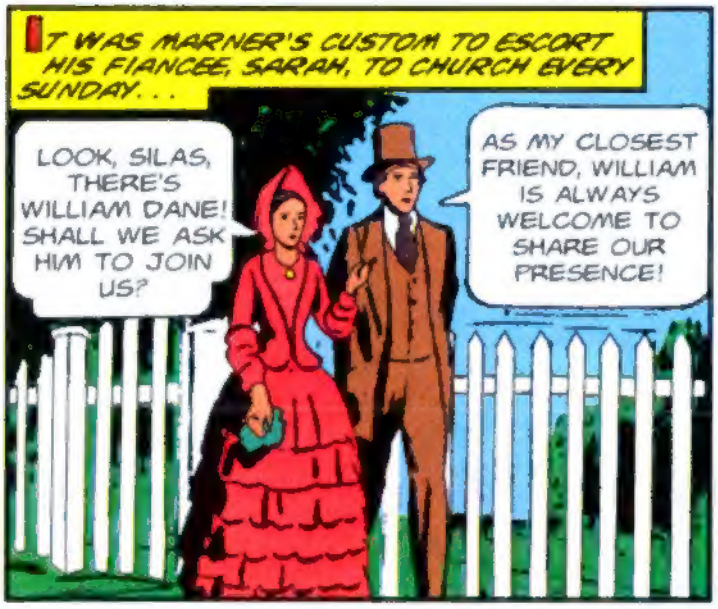
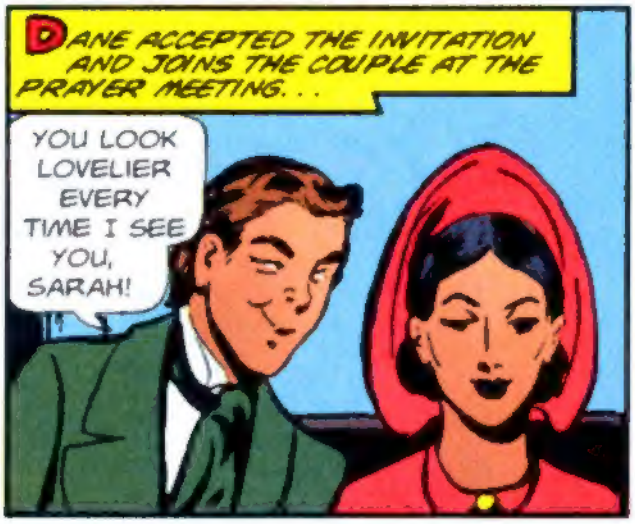
SILAS MARNER

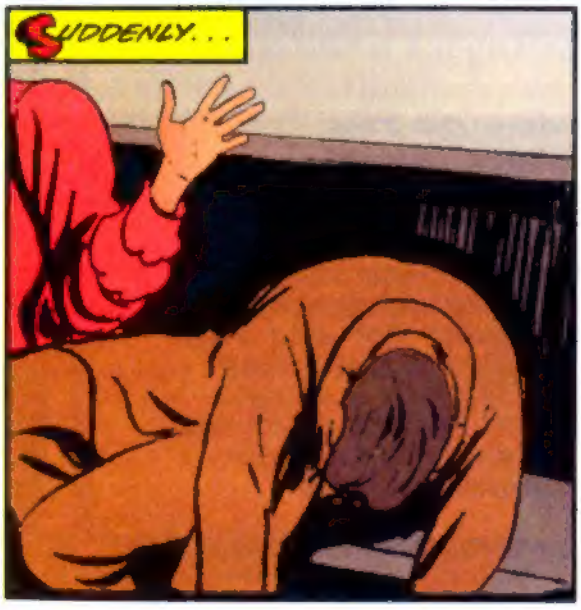
BY GEORGE ELIOT


SILAS MARNER WAS A RESPECTED YOUNG MAN, PLYING HIS TRADE AS A LINEN WEAVER IN A SECLUDED TOWN KNOWN AS LANTERN YARD...


IT WAS MARNER'S CUSTOM TO ESCORT HIS FIANCEE, SARAH, TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY...
LOOK, SILAS, THERE'S WILLIAM DANE! SHALL WE ASK HIM TO JOIN US?
AS MY CLOSEST FRIEND, WILLIAM IS ALWAYS WELCOME TO SHARE OUR PRESENCE!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T MY TWO LITTLE LOVE BIRDS!
HELLO, WILLIAM! WON'T YOU JOIN US AT THE SERVICES?


DANE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION AND JOINS THE COUPLE AT THE PRAYER MEETING...
YOU LOOK LOVELIER EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, SARAH!


SUDDENLY...

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO SILAS! CALL A DOCTOR!
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! IT'S JUST ONE OF HIS CATALEPTIC* FITS! I FEAR SILAS IS HIDING SOME ACCURSED THING WITHIN HIS SOUL!
*NERVOUS ATTACK AFFECTING THE MUSCLES

IT WAS DUE TO THESE VISITATIONS AND DANE'S DISPARAGING REMARKS, THAT SARAH GRADUALLY DEVELOPED A FORBIDDING COOLNESS TOWARDS SILAS, AND A WARMING FRIENDSHIP GREW UP BETWEEN HER AND WILLIAM DANE...

ONE DAY, THE SENIOR DEACON FELL SERIOUSLY ILL...

THE DEACON IS GRAVELY ILL AND I ADVISE HIS BEING WATCHED OVER CLOSELY!

I SHALL ARRANGE FOR SILAS MARNER AND WILLIAM DANE TO TAKE TURNS IN WATCHING HIM THROUGH THE NIGHT!

THAT NIGHT...

HOW IS THE DEACON?

HIS CONDITION IS GRAVE, MASTER MARNER, AND HE BEARS CLOSE WATCHING! DANE WILL BE HERE TO RELIEVE YOU AT TWO O'CLOCK.

FOR HOURS, MARNER SAT SILENTLY BESIDE THE BED OF THE GRAVELY STRICKEN DEACON, WHEN SUDDENLY...

MARNER STIFFENED IN HIS CHAIR, HIS EYES STARING VACANTLY INTO SPACE...

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK! I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP!

HE'S DEAD!

THE MINISTER, WITH SOME FRIENDS, ARRIVED IN ANSWER TO MARNER'S SUMMONS. . .
I MUST HAVE SLEPT AT LEAST FOUR HOURS; WHEN I AWOKE, HE WAS BEYOND HELP!
GO TO YOUR HOME, SILAS! I SHALL BE OVER TO SEE YOU PRESENTLY!

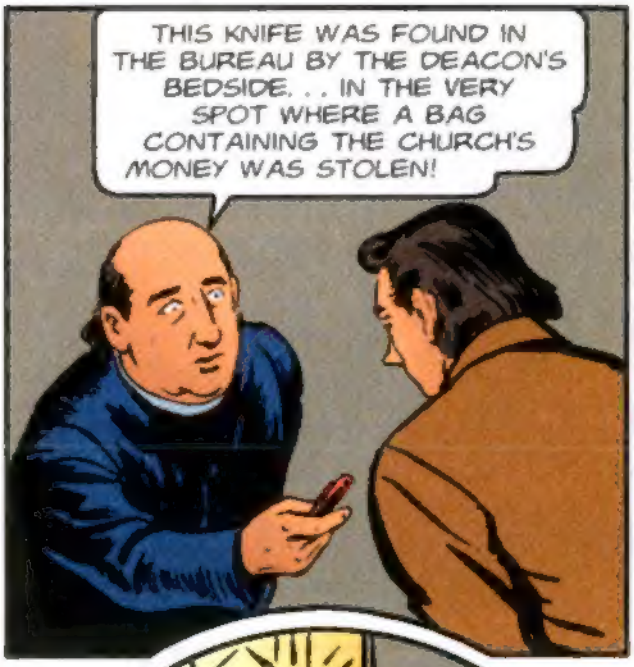
I JUST CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY WILLIAM DANE DID NOT COME TO RELIEVE ME AS HE HAD PROMISED!

LATER, MARNER RECEIVED TWO VISITORS. . .
WHY, WILLIAM! WHERE. . .

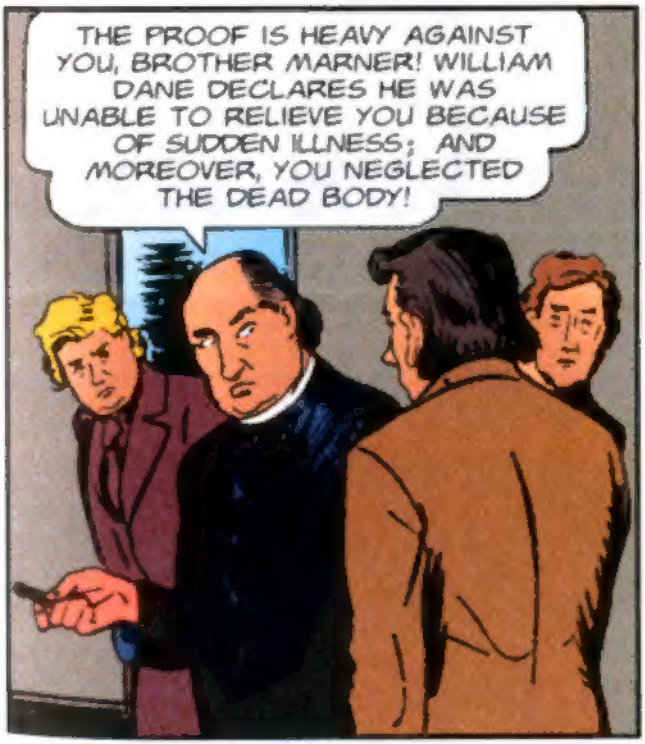
SILAS, WE HAVE COME TO ESCORT YOU TO LANTERN YARD TO MEET THE CHURCH MEMBERS!

THE CHURCH MEMBERS! BUT WHY?
YOU WILL HEAR!

N THE CHURCH VESTRY...
DOES THIS POCKET KNIFE BELONG TO YOU, SILAS MARNER?
WHY, YES, IT'S MINE! BUT WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS INTER-ROGATION?


THIS KNIFE WAS FOUND IN THE BUREAU BY THE DEACON'S BEDSIDE... IN THE VERY SPOT WHERE A BAG CONTAINING THE CHURCH'S MONEY WAS STOLEN!

BUT SURELY, YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT I HAD ANY-THING TO DO WITH IT!


THE PROOF IS HEAVY AGAINST YOU, BROTHER MARNER! WILLIAM DANE DECLARES HE WAS UNABLE TO RELIEVE YOU BECAUSE OF SUDDEN ILLNESS; AND MOREOVER, YOU NEGLECTED THE DEAD BODY!

AS GOD IS MY WITNESS, I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE THEFT OF THAT MONEY! I PLEAD WITH YOU TO BELIEVE ME! SEARCH MY HOUSE! YOU WILL FIND NOTHING THERE BUT THREE POUND FIVE OF MY OWN SAVINGS!

IN MARNER'S HOUSE, THEY TOOK UP THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING CHURCH MONEY...

LOOK! THE BAG OF MONEY HIDDEN BEHIND THIS CHEST OF DRAWERS!

BUT, WILLIAM, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BELIEVE I HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIDING THAT MONEY!

SURELY, WILLIAM, YOU WILL TESTIFY THAT IN THE NINE LONG YEARS YOU HAVE KNOWN ME, I HAVE NEVER TOLD A LIE!

BROTHER MARNER, YOU WILL APPEAR AT A MEETING OF THE CHURCH MEMBERS IN THE MORNING, AND THEY WILL DRAW LOTS TO PASS ON YOUR GUILT OR INNOCENCE!
I AM SORE STRICKEN! I KNOW NOTHING! GOD WILL CLEAR ME!

NEXT MORNING...

YOU HAVE HEARD THE CASE OF THE CHURCH AGAINST SILAS MARNER! THE MEMBERS WILL NOW DRAW LOTS TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE ACCUSED!

THE LOTS WERE DRAWN...

BY YOUR LOTS, YOU HAVE FOUND SILAS MARNER GUILTY OF STEALING THE FUNDS AND BETRAYING THE CHURCH!

YOU WERE THE LAST TO SEE MY KNIFE, WILLIAM! YOU STOLE THE MONEY AND WOVE A PLOT TO LAY THE SIN AT MY DOOR! YOU MAY PROSPER FOR ALL THAT, BUT THERE IS NO JUST GOD THAT GOVERNS THE EARTH RIGHTEOUSLY, BUT A GOD OF LIES AGAINST THE INNOCENT!

THERE WAS A GENERAL SHUDDER AT THIS BLASPHEMY AND DANE ROSE MEEKLY TO HIS FEET...

I LEAVE MY BRETHREN TO JUDGE WHETHER THIS IS THE VOICE OF SATAN OR NOT! I CAN DO NOTHING BUT PRAY FOR YOU, SILAS.

AS PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIME OF WHICH HE WAS FOUND GUILTY, MARNER WAS SUSPENDED FROM CHURCH MEMBERSHIP UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE WOULD CONFESS, AS A SIGN OF REPENTANCE.

STUNNED BY DESPAIR AND THE BETRAYAL BY HIS BEST FRIEND, MARNER LATER LEARNED THAT SARAH HAD BROKEN OFF THEIR ENGAGEMENT AND HAD MARRIED WILLIAM DANE. WITH BITTERNESS IN HIS HEART AGAINST HIS FELLOW MAN, HE LEFT LANTERN YARD TO TAKE UP HIS ABODE IN THE FAR OFF COMMUNITY OF RAVELOE...

IN THE FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE MARNER HAD ABANDONED LANTERN YARD FOR HIS LONELY REFUGE IN RAVELOE, HE HAD ACCUMULATED A FORTUNE AT THE TRADE OF WEAVING. . .

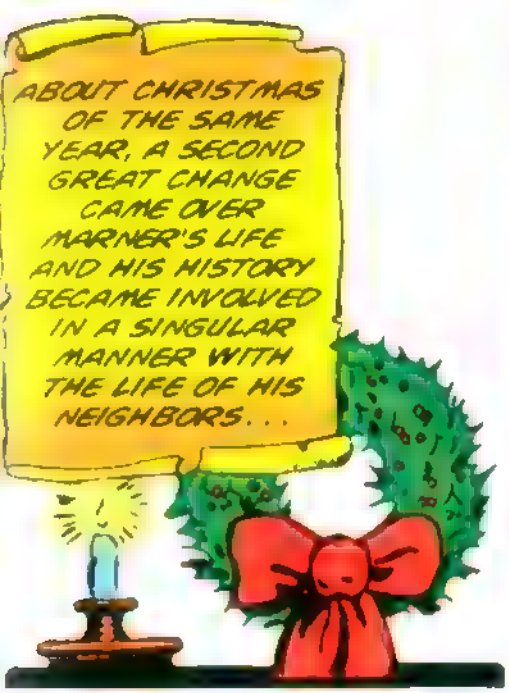
HEH! HEH! TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS IN GLISTENING GOLDEN GUINEAS. THE SOUND OF THEIR CLINKING IS MUSIC TO AN OLD MAN'S EARS!

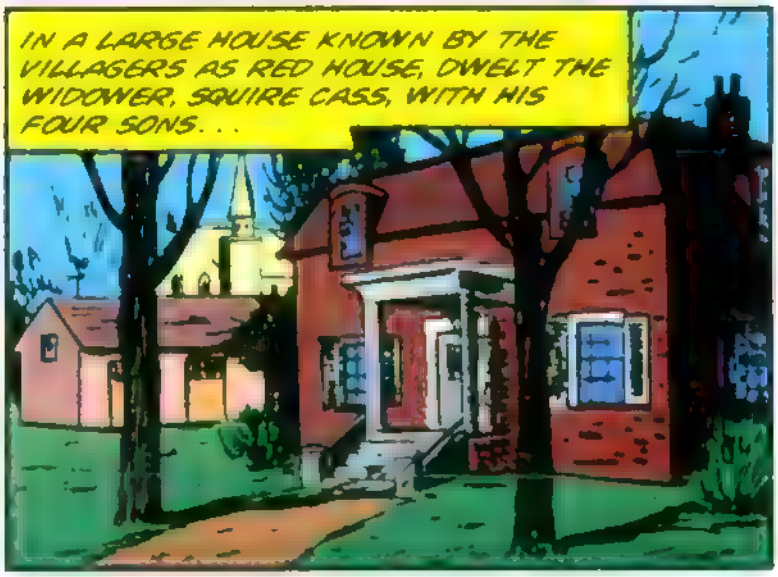
I MUST FIND A HIDING PLACE FOR MY TREASURE BEFORE SOME SNOOPING WRETCH RELIEVES ME OF IT WHILE I'M AWAY!

PLACING THE MONEY IN A BAG, MARNER DECIDED TO HIDE IT UNDER THE FLOOR, NEAR HIS LOOM. . .

THIS SHOULD BE A SAFE PLACE FROM THE PRYING EYES OF MY NEIGHBORS, WHO, TO SAY THE LEAST, BEAR ME NO GOOD WILL.

NOW, I WILL TAKE THIS LINEN TO MRS. OSGOOD AND RECEIVE ANOTHER GOLDEN GUINEA FOR MY TREASURED COLLECTION!


ABOUT CHRISTMAS OF THE SAME YEAR, A SECOND GREAT CHANGE CAME OVER MARNER'S LIFE AND HIS HISTORY BECAME INVOLVED IN A SINGULAR MANNER WITH THE LIFE OF HIS NEIGHBORS...

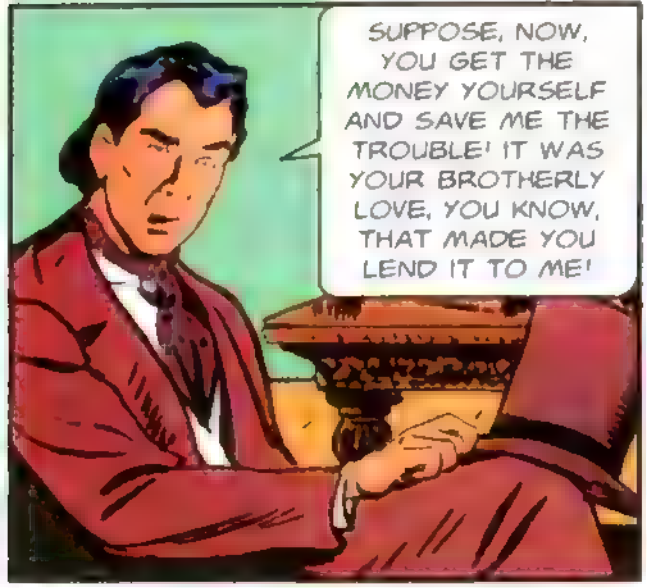

IN A LARGE HOUSE KNOWN BY THE VILLAGERS AS RED HOUSE, DWELT THE WIDOWER, SQUIRE CASS, WITH HIS FOUR SONS...

GODFREY, THE ELDEST, WAS PACING THE FLOOR, AWAITING THE APPEARANCE OF HIS WORTHLESS BROTHER, DUNSTAN.
HANG THAT NO GOOD BROTHER OF MINE! WHY DOES HE KEEP ME WAITING WHEN I SEND FOR HIM?

YOU'RE MY ELDER AND BETTER, GODFREY! I WAS OBLIGED TO COME WHEN YOU SENT FOR ME!

NEVER MIND THE SARCASM, DUNSTAN JUST SHAKE YOURSELF SOBER AND LISTEN!

IT'S ABOUT THAT MONEY I COLLECTED FOR THE SQUIRE AND GAVE TO YOU! THE SQUIRE'S SHORT OF CASH AND WILL STAND FOR NO NONSENSE! I WANT YOU TO GET THAT MONEY AND GET IT QUICKLY!


SUPPOSE, NOW, YOU GET THE MONEY YOURSELF AND SAVE ME THE TROUBLE! IT WAS YOUR BROTHERLY LOVE, YOU KNOW, THAT MADE YOU LEND IT TO ME!

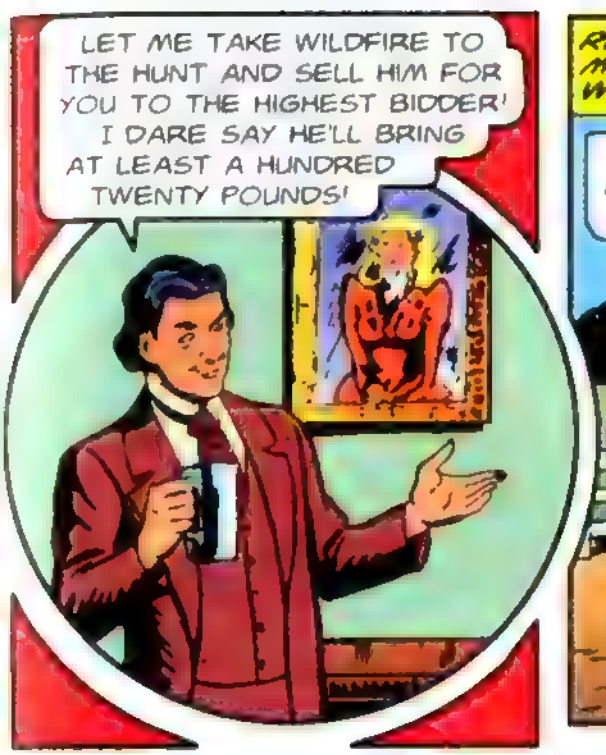
PLEASE DON'T COME NEAR ME WITH THAT LOOK, ELSE I'LL KNOCK YOU DOWN!

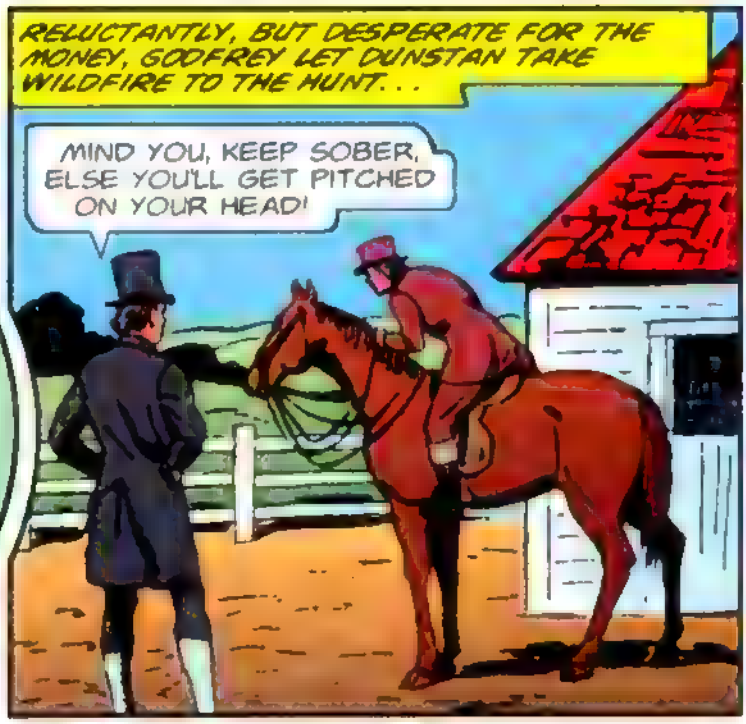
OH, NO YOU WON'T! NOT WHILE YOU KNOW I CARRY THE SECRET OF YOUR MARRIAGE TO THAT NICE YOUNG WOMAN, MOLLY FARRAN!

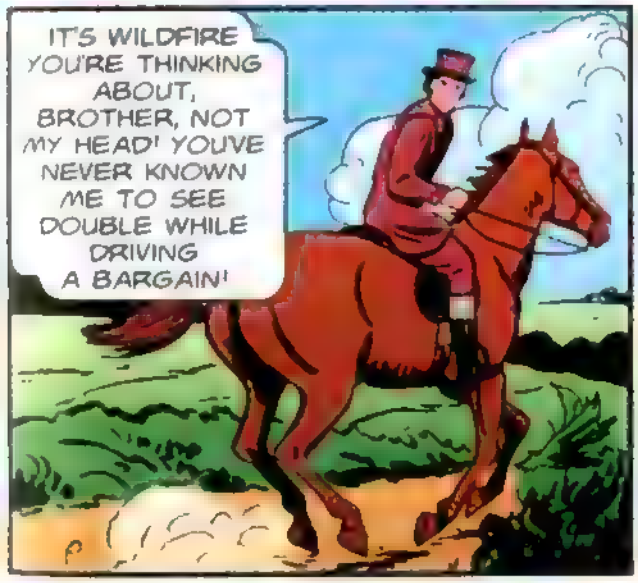
YOU WOULDN'T DARE TELL THE SQUIRE! WHY, I'D

CALM YOURSELF, MASTER GODFREY, AND I'LL MAKE YOU A PROPOSITION THAT WILL KEEP YOU IN THE GOOD GRACES OF THE SQUIRE, NOT TO MENTION MISS NANCY LAMMETER!

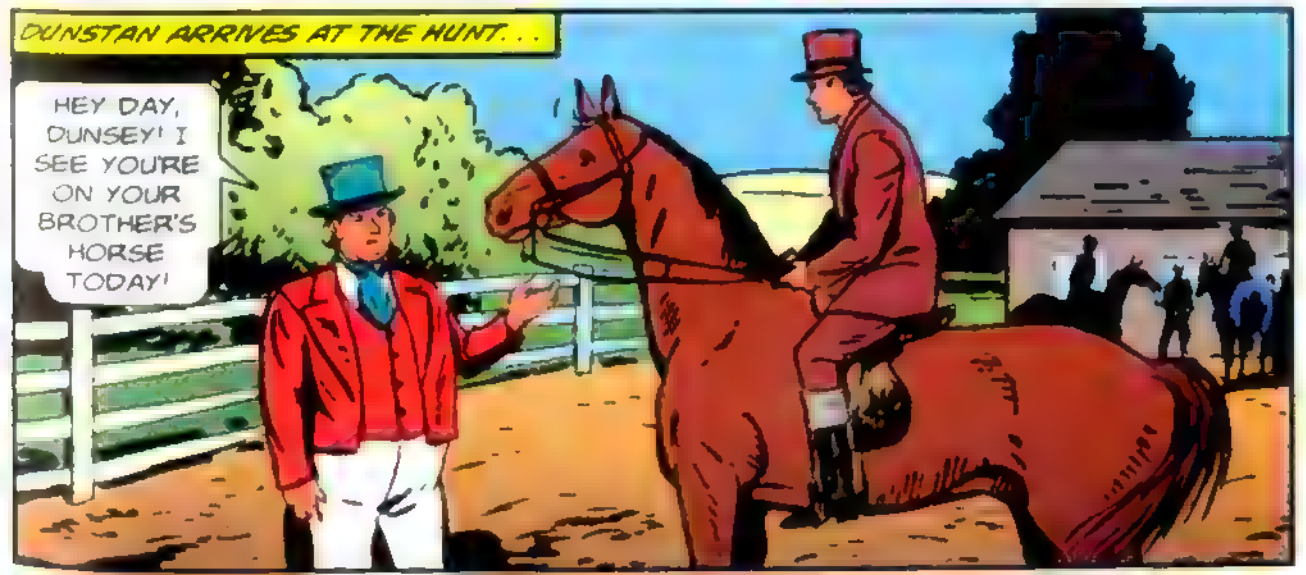
KEEP MISS NANCY'S NAME OUT OF THIS, YOU FOOL! WHAT IS THIS PROPOSITION?
WHY SIMPLY THIS


LET ME TAKE WILDFIRE TO THE HUNT AND SELL HIM FOR YOU TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER! I DARE SAY HE'LL BRING AT LEAST A HUNDRED TWENTY POUNDS!


RELUCTANTLY, BUT DESPERATE FOR THE MONEY, GODFREY LET DUNSTAN TAKE WILDFIRE TO THE HUNT...
MIND YOU, KEEP SOBER, ELSE YOU'LL GET PITCHED ON YOUR HEAD!

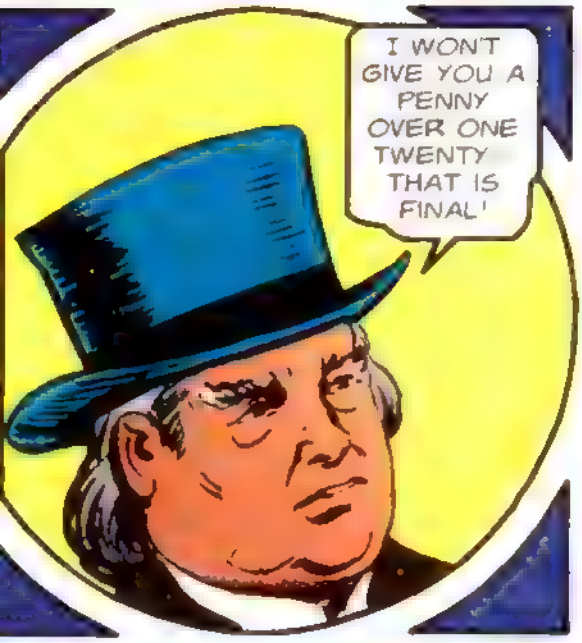

IT'S WILDFIRE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT, BROTHER, NOT MY HEAD! YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN ME TO SEE DOUBLE WHILE DRIVING A BARGAIN!

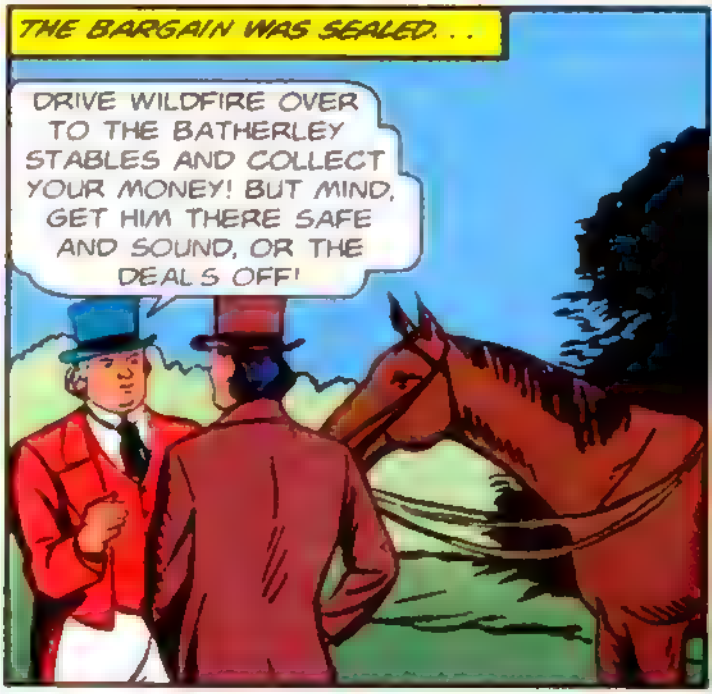
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY I SHOULD HAVE TO PART WITH MY FAVORITE STEED! THE BLACKMAILING SCOUNDREL!


DUNSTAN ARRIVES AT THE HUNT...
HEY DAY, DUNSEY! I SEE YOU'RE ON YOUR BROTHER'S HORSE TODAY!

OH, I'VE SWAPPED WITH HIM! WILDFIRE'S MINE NOW!

HE'S A MIGHTY FINE ANIMAL! I WAS OFFERED A HUNDRED FIFTY THE OTHER DAY FROM A MAN OVER AT FLITTON!

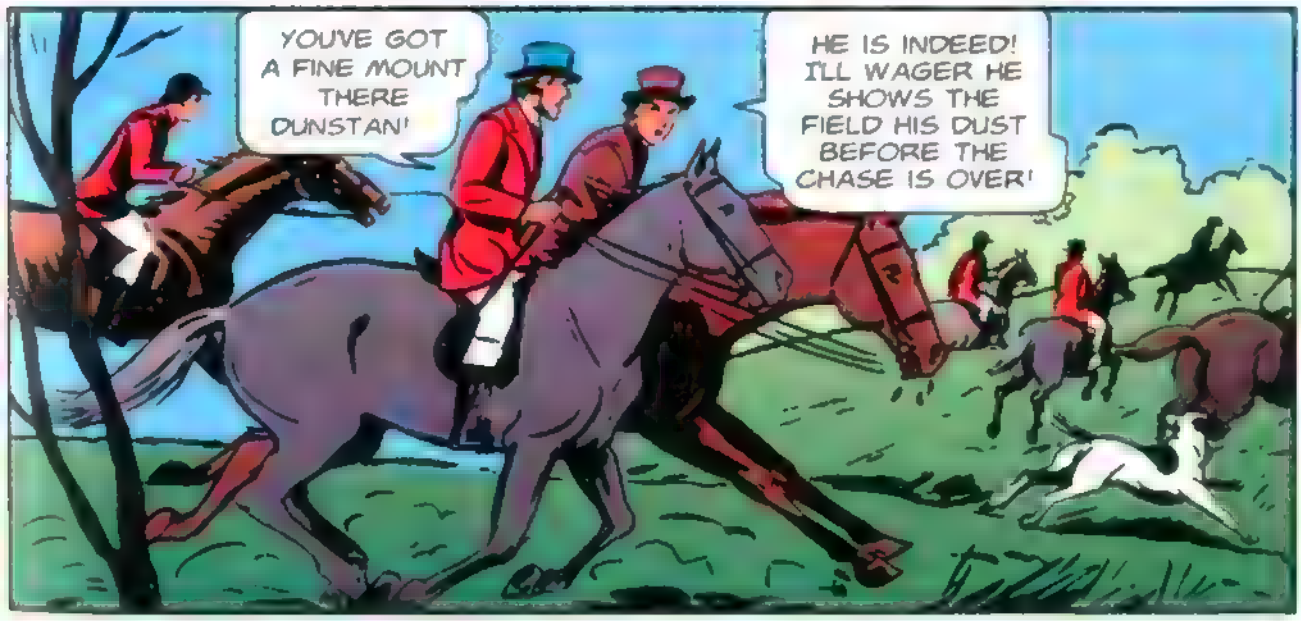

I WON'T GIVE YOU A PENNY OVER ONE TWENTY THAT IS FINAL!


THE BARGAIN WAS SEALED...
DRIVE WILDFIRE OVER TO THE BATHERLEY STABLES AND COLLECT YOUR MONEY! BUT MIND, GET HIM THERE SAFE AND SOUND, OR THE DEAL'S OFF!

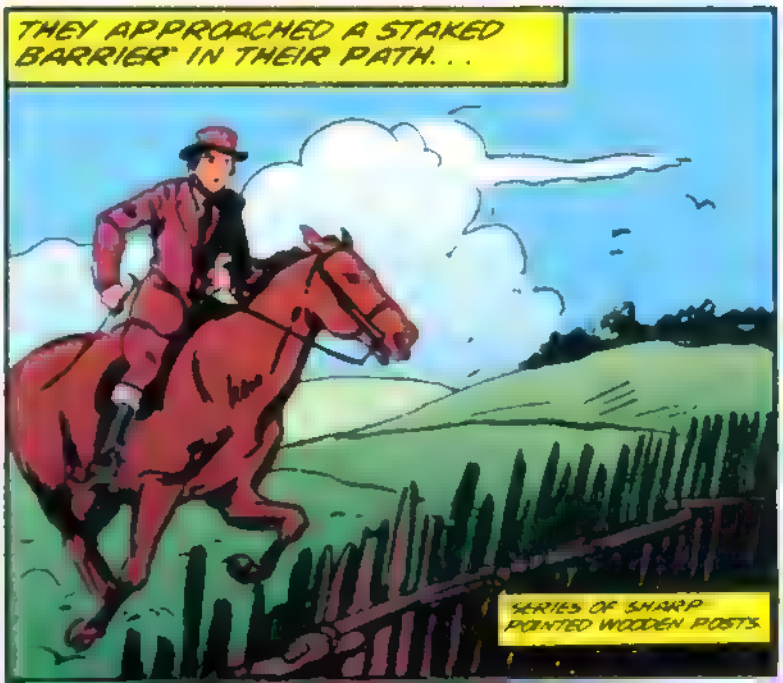
DUNSTAN LINGERED A WHILE TO WATCH THE HUNT...
WHAT A SPLENDID DAY FOR THE HUNT!

INTRIGUED BY THE PROSPECT OF WINNING THE CHASE WITH WILDFIRE, DUNSTAN WAS SEIZED WITH AN URGE TO JOIN THE HUNT BEFORE HE TURNED THE HORSE IN. . .

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO RIDE WILDFIRE IN THE HUNT, AND THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY!


YOU'VE GOT A FINE MOUNT THERE DUNSTAN!
HE IS INDEED! I'LL WAGER HE SHOWS THE FIELD HIS DUST BEFORE THE CHASE IS OVER!

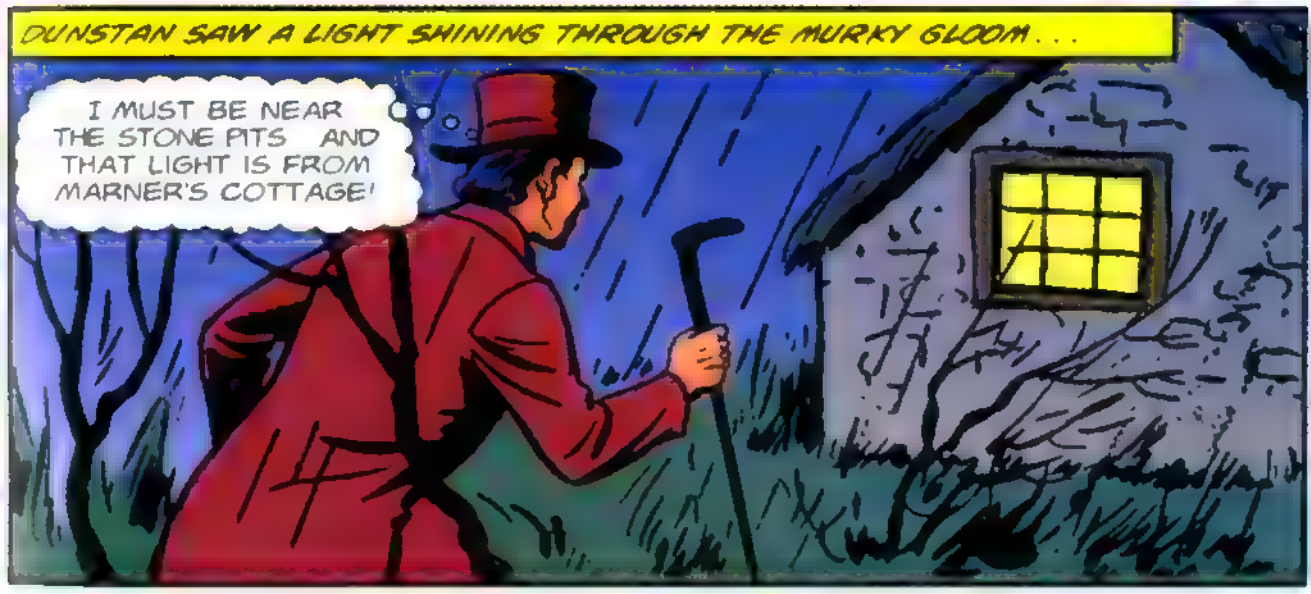
DUNSTAN, BECAUSE OF POOR HANDLING OF HIS MOUNT, FELL BEHIND. . .
COME ON, WILDFIRE!


THEY APPROACHED A STAKED BARRIER* IN THEIR PATH. . .
*SERIES OF SHARP POINTED WOODEN POSTS

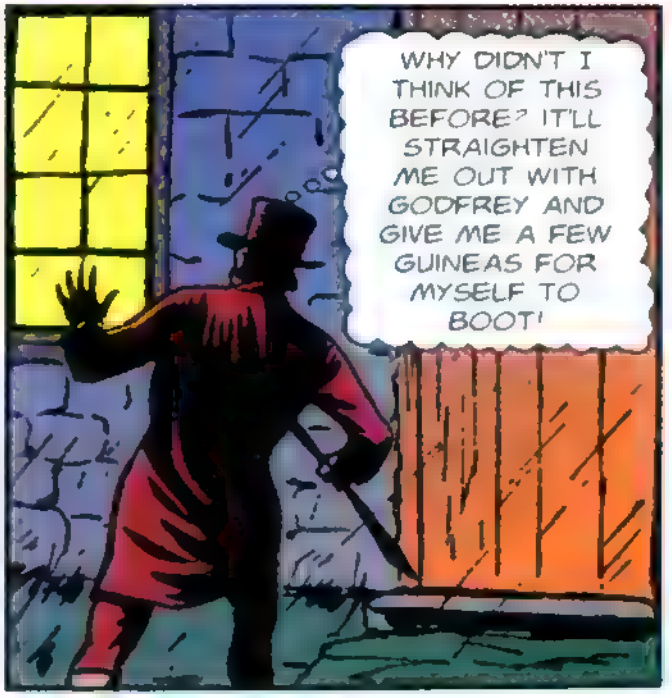
WE MUST TAKE THIS FENCE!
SUDDENLY...
DRAT THE LUCK! I HOPE HE HASN'T BROKEN A LEG!
GREAT SCOTT! HE'S BEEN STAKED!
'KILLED BY A SHARP-POINTED WOODEN POST
NOW I'LL HAVE TO RETURN TO RED HOUSE WITHOUT THE HORSE OR THE MONEY! THIS IS A FINE MESS I'VE COOKED UP FOR MYSELF!

IN A HEAVY MIST, AND CARRYING GODFREY'S WHIP, DUNSTAN SET OUT FOR RAVELOE...

HANG IT ALL! IN THIS HEAVY MIST, I'LL NEVER FIND THE ROAD!

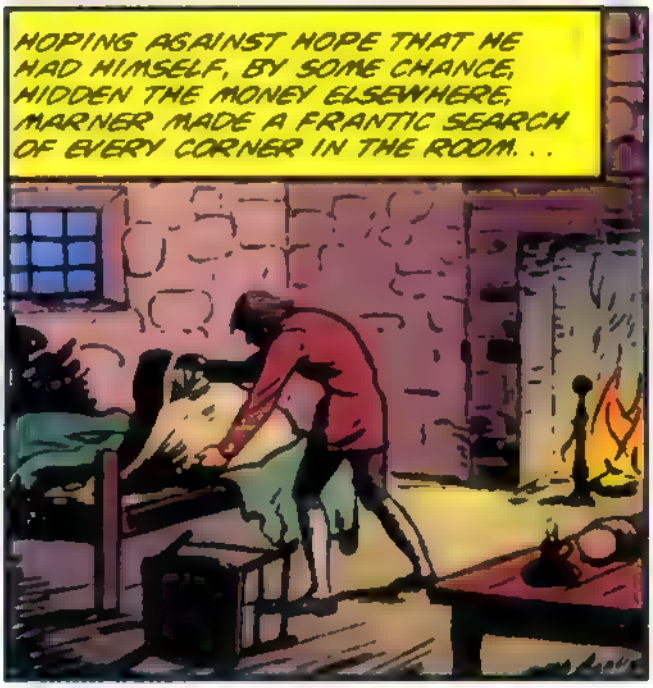

DUNSTAN SAW A LIGHT SHINING THROUGH THE MURKY GLOOM...
I MUST BE NEAR THE STONE PITS AND THAT LIGHT IS FROM MARNER'S COTTAGE!

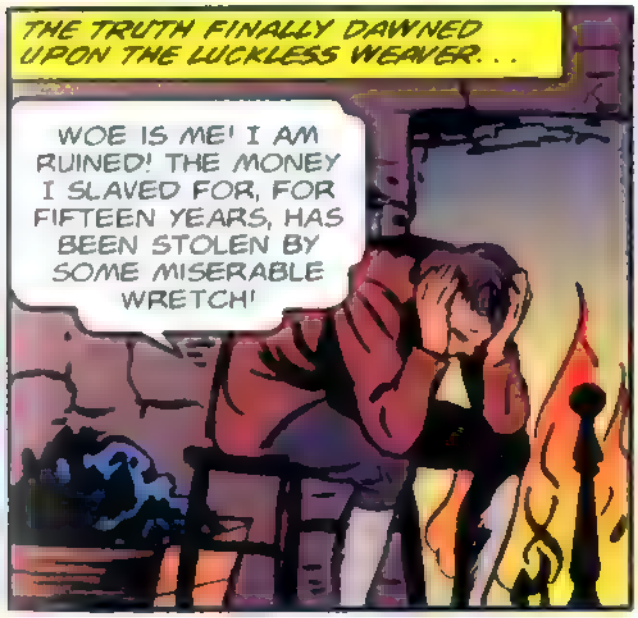
THAT OLD MISER'S GOT MORE MONEY THAN HE'LL EVER HAVE NEED FOR! WHY NOT ASK HIM FOR A LOAN AND PROMISE HIM A GOOD RATE OF INTEREST?

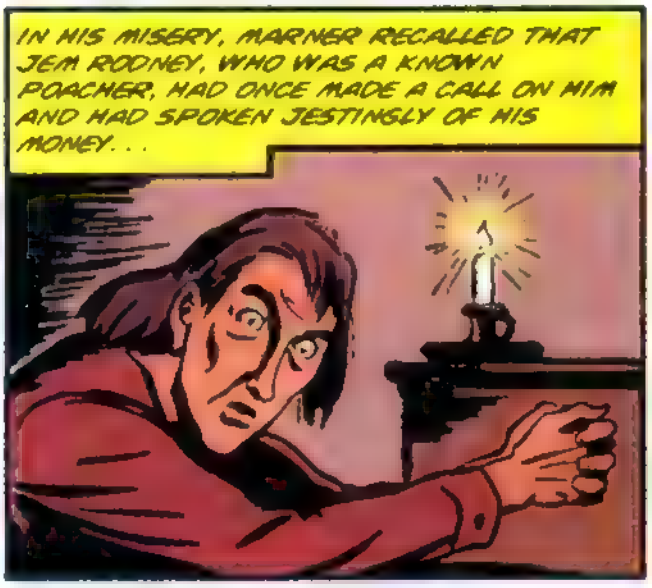

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE? IT'LL STRAIGHTEN ME OUT WITH GODFREY AND GIVE ME A FEW GUINEAS FOR MYSELF TO BOOT!

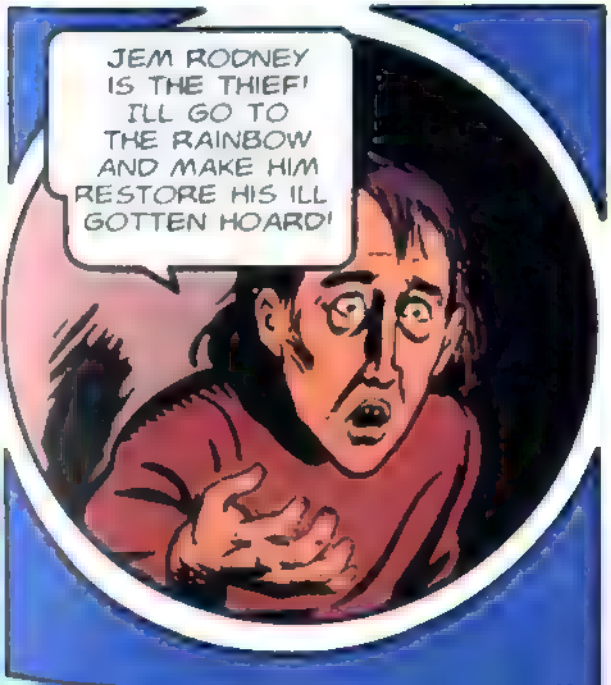
RECEIVING NO RESPONSE TO HIS KNOCKS ON THE DOOR, DUNSTAN ENTERED THE COTTAGE AND STARTED BROWSING ABOUT. NOTICING THAT THE BRICKS BY THE LOOM HAD BEEN DISTURBED, DUNSTAN PRIED AWAY...
FINALLY...
MARNER'S GOLD! I MUST GET AWAY BEFORE THE OLD SKIN-FLINT RETURNS!
HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRACK ME DOWN IN THE RAIN!
AS DUNSTAN DISAPPEARED INTO THE DARK, A STOOPED FIGURE CAME PLODDING TOWARDS THE HOUSE...
THAT FIRE NEVER LOOKED MORE INVITING! BRR! I'M SOAKED CLEAR THROUGH TO THE SKIN!
MY TREASURE!

IT'S GONE! MY LIFE'S SAVINGS ARE GONE!


HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT HE HAD HIMSELF, BY SOME CHANCE, HIDDEN THE MONEY ELSEWHERE, MARNER MADE A FRANTIC SEARCH OF EVERY CORNER IN THE ROOM. . .


THE TRUTH FINALLY DAWNED UPON THE LUCKLESS WEAVER. . .
WOE IS ME! I AM RUINED! THE MONEY I SLAVED FOR, FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, HAS BEEN STOLEN BY SOME MISERABLE WRETCH!


IN HIS MISERY, MARNER RECALLED THAT JEM RODNEY, WHO WAS A KNOWN POACHER, HAD ONCE MADE A CALL ON HIM AND HAD SPOKEN JESTINGLY OF HIS MONEY. . .

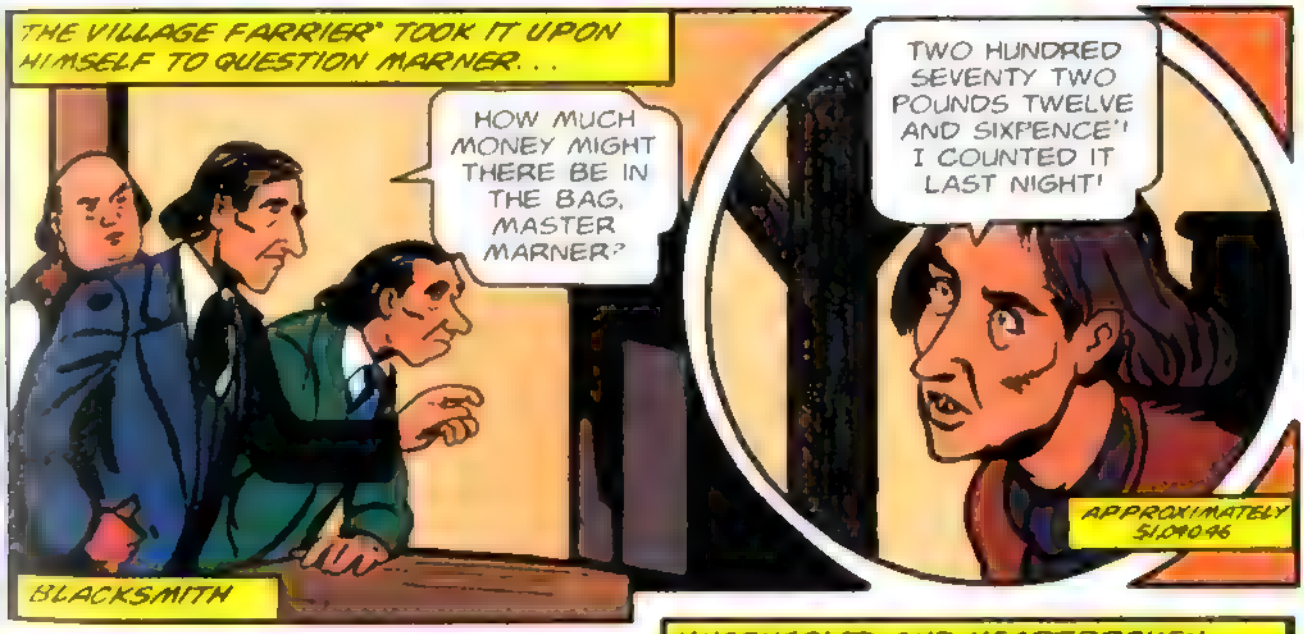

JEM RODNEY IS THE THIEF! I'LL GO TO THE RAINBOW AND MAKE HIM RESTORE HIS ILL GOTTEN HOARD!

UNMINDFUL OF THE ELEMENTS, MARNER HEADED STRAIGHT FOR "THE RAINBOW," THE VILLAGE TAVERN. . .

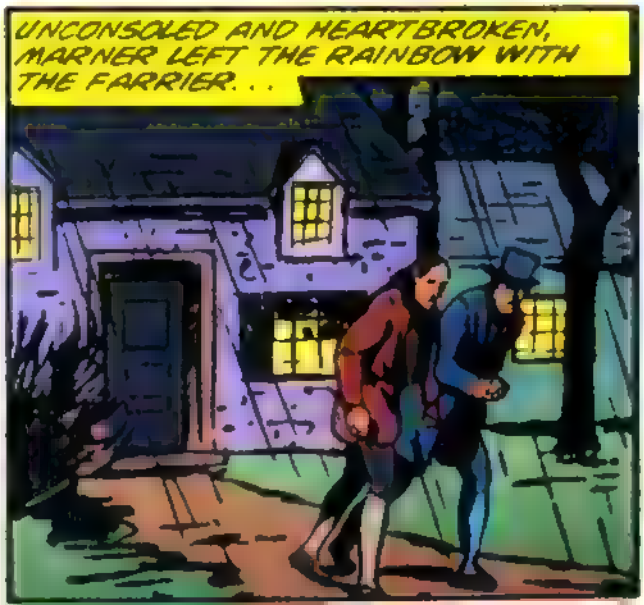
THE QUIET AT THE RAINBOW WAS SUDDENLY DISTURBED BY A PALE, THIN, DRENCHED FIGURE AT THE DOOR...
MASTER MARNER! WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
ROBBED! IVE BEEN ROBBED! I WANT THE CONSTABLE AND THE JUSTICE, AND SQUIRE CASS, AND MR CRACKENTHORP.
LAY HOLD ON HIM, JEM RODNEY! HE'S OFF HIS HEAD!
LAY HOLD ON HIM YOURSELF, MR SNELL! HE'S BEEN ROBBED AND MURDERED FOR WHAT I KNOW!
RODNEY!
AY, MASTER MARNER! WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
YOU STOLE MY MONEY! GIVE IT BACK AND I WON'T SET THE CONSTABLE ON YOU! PRAY, RODNEY, GIVE IT BACK AND I'LL LET YOU HAVE A GUINEA!

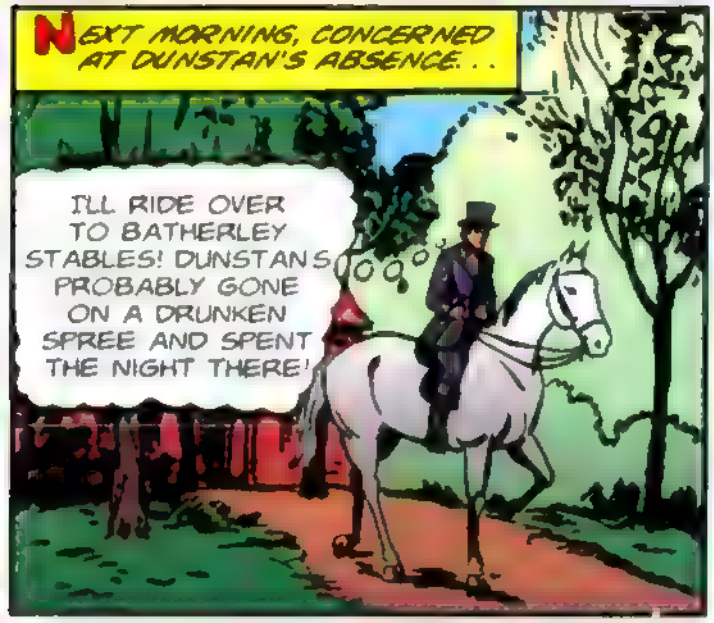
ME STEAL YOUR MONEY? I'LL PITCH THIS CAN AT YOUR EYE IF YOU TALK ABOUT ME STEALING YOUR MONEY!

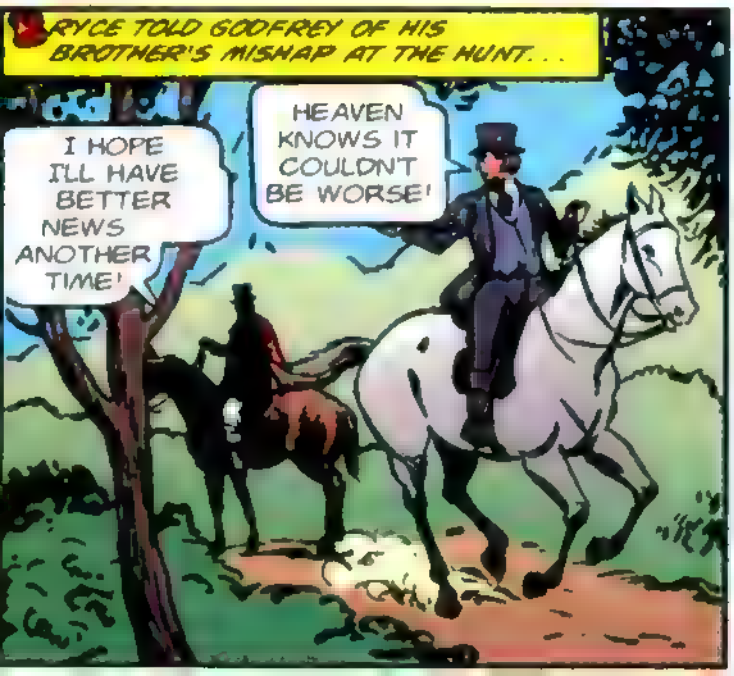
MR. SNELL ESTABLISHED AN ALIBI FOR JEM RODNEY. APOLOGIZING TO RODNEY, MARNER TOLD HIS STORY TO THE ASSEMBLED VILLAGERS. . .


THE VILLAGE FARRIER* TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO QUESTION MARNER. . .
HOW MUCH MONEY MIGHT THERE BE IN THE BAG, MASTER MARNER?
BLACKSMITH
TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO POUNDS TWELVE AND SIXPENCE'! I COUNTED IT LAST NIGHT!
APPROXIMATELY $1,000.46

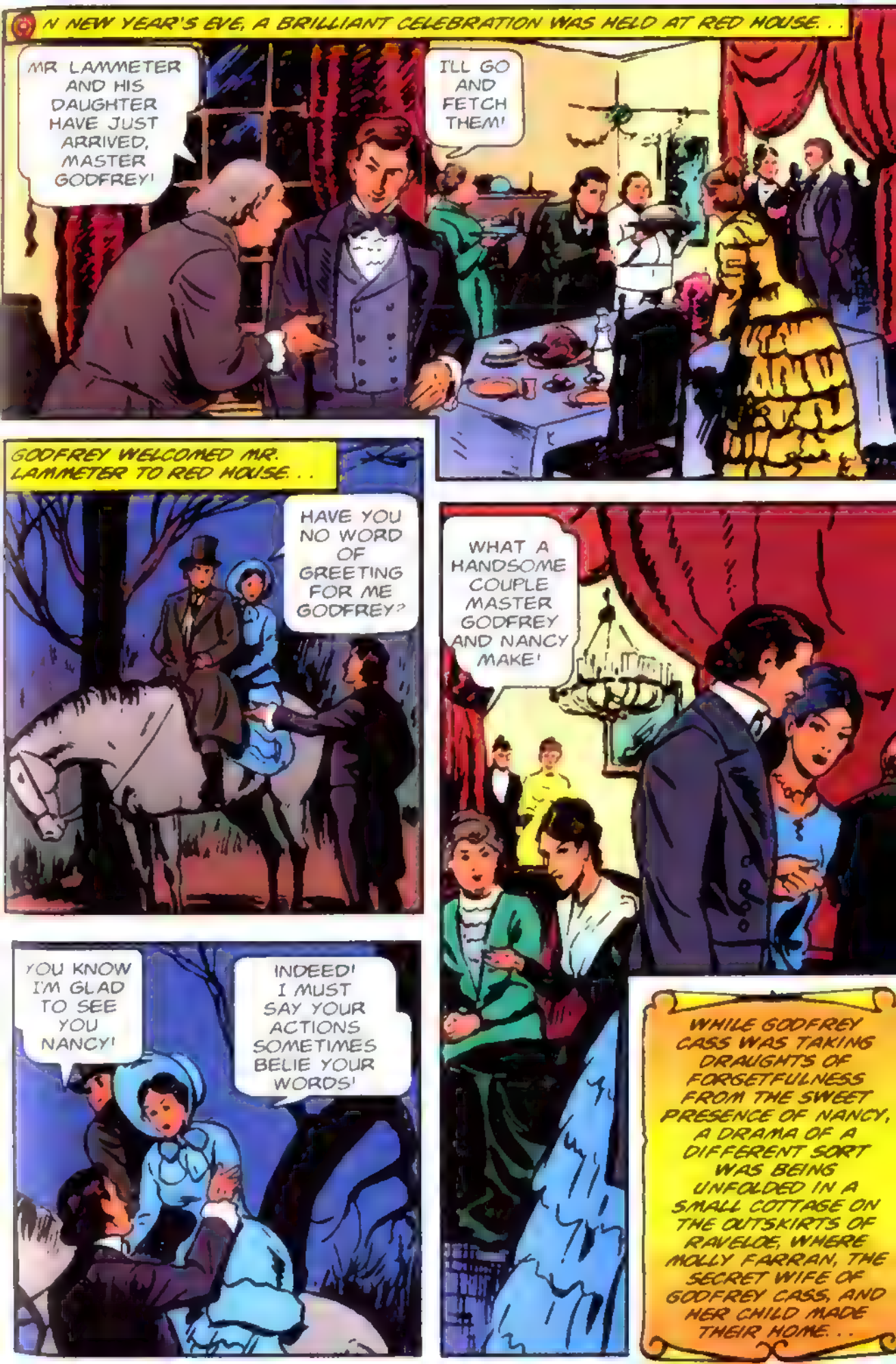
I SHALL GO WITH YOU TO EXAMINE YOUR PREMISES AND THEN REPORT YOUR LOSS TO THE CONSTABLE!


UNCONSOLED AND HEARTBROKEN, MARNER LEFT THE RAINBOW WITH THE FARRIER. . .





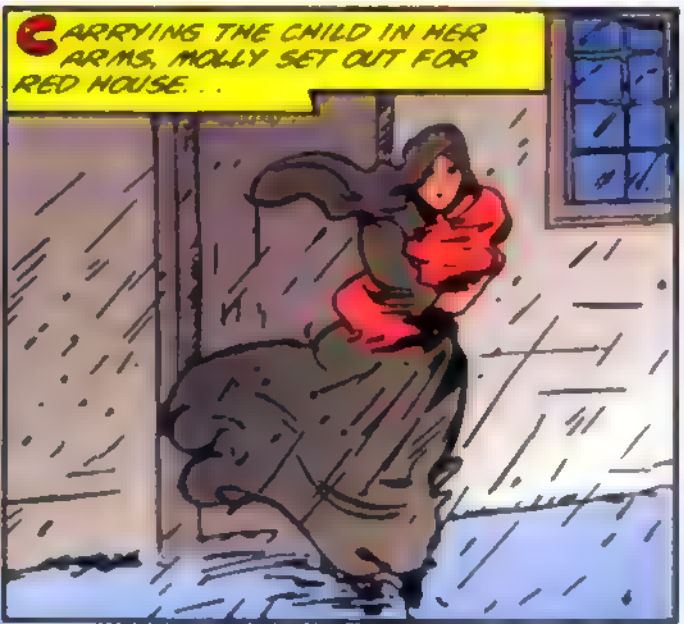
TORMENTED BY THE COMPLICATIONS THAT HAD BESET HIS TORTURED LIFE, GODFREY DETERMINED TO MAKE A CLEAN AVOWAL TO HIS FATHER THE NEXT MORNING. THE SQUIRE WAS VERY ANGRY AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR GODFREY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT HIS LIFE WOULD BE TO MARRY. HE OFFERED TO INTERCEDE IN GODFREY'S BEHALF WITH NANCY LAMMETER BUT GODFREY BEGGED FOR TIME TO HANDLE THE MATTER IN HIS OWN WAY.


N NEW YEAR'S EVE, A BRILLIANT CELEBRATION WAS HELD AT RED HOUSE. . .
MR LAMMETER AND HIS DAUGHTER HAVE JUST ARRIVED, MASTER GODFREY!
I'LL GO AND FETCH THEM!
GODFREY WELCOMED MR. LAMMETER TO RED HOUSE. . .
HAVE YOU NO WORD OF GREETING FOR ME GODFREY?
WHAT A HANDSOME COUPLE MASTER GODFREY AND NANCY MAKE!
YOU KNOW I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU NANCY!
INDEED! I MUST SAY YOUR ACTIONS SOMETIMES BELIE YOUR WORDS!
WHILE GODFREY CASS WAS TAKING DRAUGHTS OF FORGETFULNESS FROM THE SWEET PRESENCE OF NANCY, A DRAMA OF A DIFFERENT SORT WAS BEING UNFOLDED IN A SMALL COTTAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF RAVELOE, WHERE MOLLY FARRAN, THE SECRET WIFE OF GODFREY CASS, AND HER CHILD MADE THEIR HOME. . .

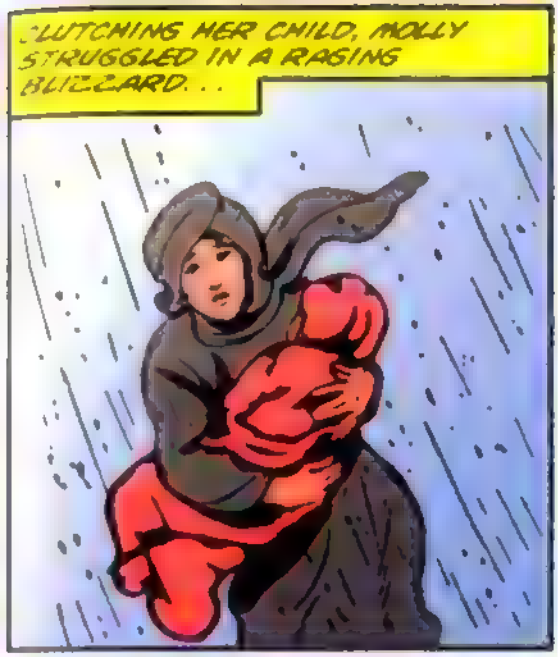
IN A DISMAL COTTAGE WHICH TO MOLLY FARRAN WAS HOME
BYE, BYE, MOMMY!
YES, MY DEAR! WE'RE GOING ON A VISIT WE SHOULD HAVE MADE A LONG TIME AGO!

WE MUST LOOK PRETTY, BABY, FOR YOUR GRANDFATHER'S A SQUIRE, QUITE THE RICHEST MAN IN RAVELOE!

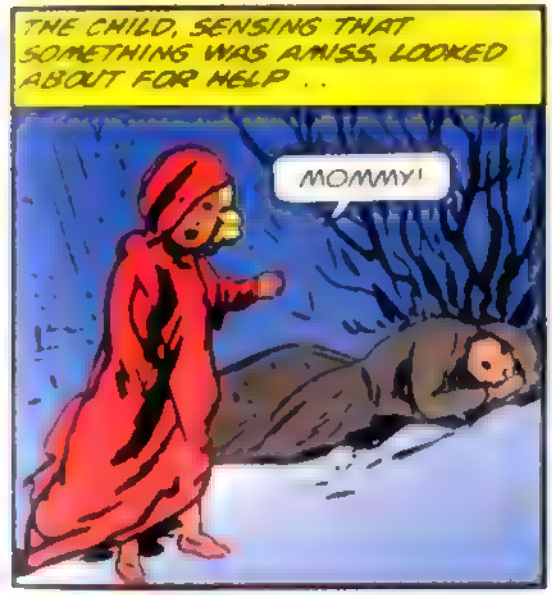
AND YOUR NO GOOD FATHER MUST BE MADE TO TAKE CARE OF HIS CHILD IN THE MANNER BEFITTING A SQUIRE'S GRANDDAUGHTER!

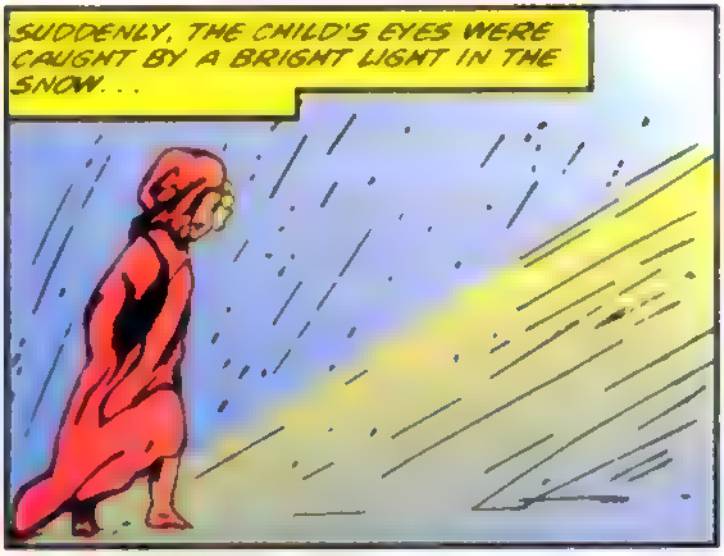

CARRYING THE CHILD IN HER ARMS, MOLLY SET OUT FOR RED HOUSE...

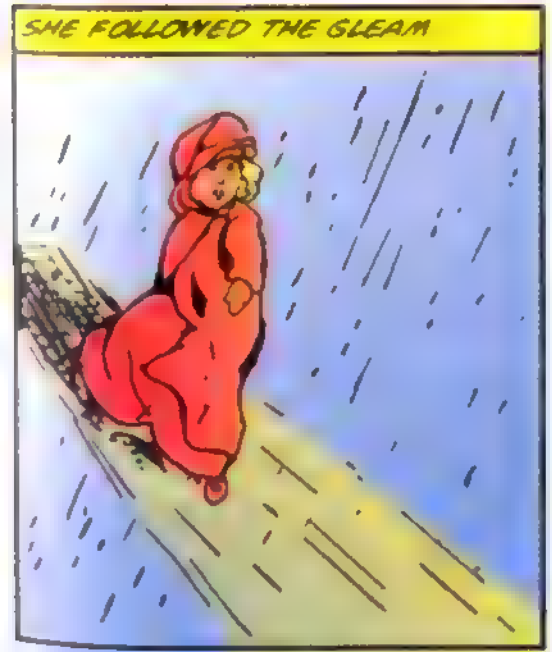
STRUGGLING ALONG IN THE HEAVY STORM, MOLLY WAS DETERMINED TO LAY HER CASE BEFORE THE SQUIRE, COME WHAT MAY.

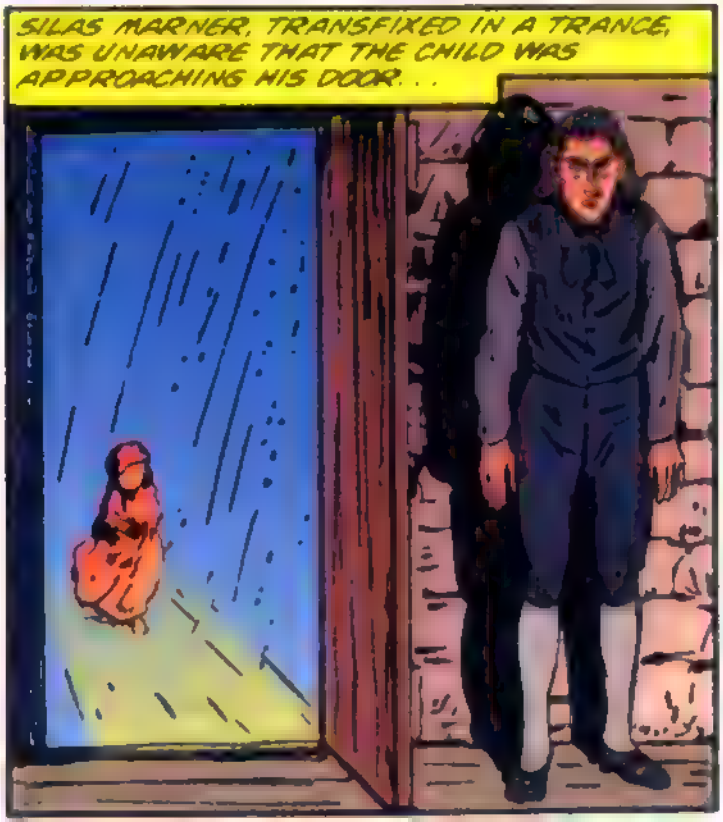

CLUTCHING HER CHILD, MOLLY STRUGGLED IN A RAGING BLIZZARD. . .

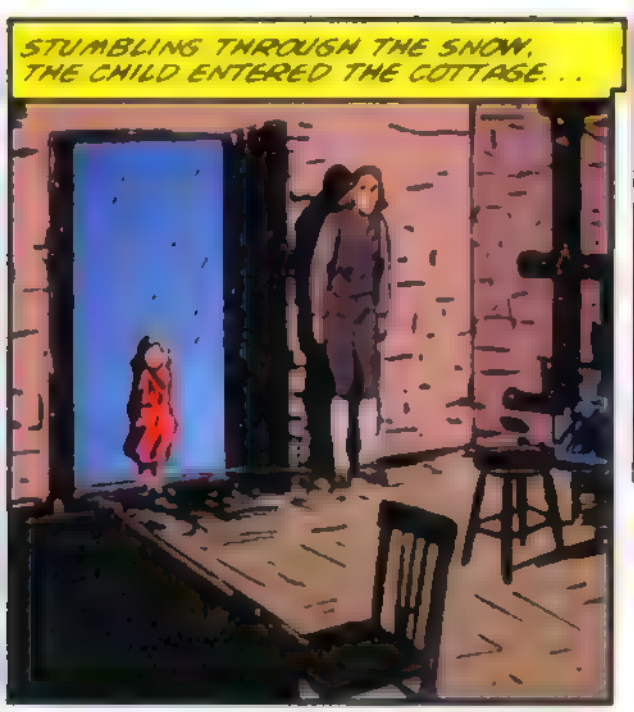
SHE WAS SOON OVERCOME WITH A LONGING TO LIE DOWN AND SLEEP.

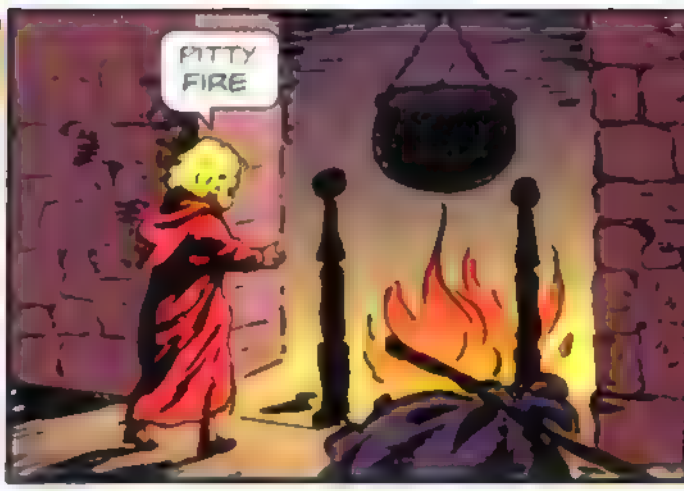

THE CHILD, SENSING THAT SOMETHING WAS AMISS, LOOKED ABOUT FOR HELP . .
MOMMY!


SUDDENLY, THE CHILD'S EYES WERE CAUGHT BY A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SNOW. . .


SHE FOLLOWED THE GLEAM


SILAS MARNER, TRANSFIXED IN A TRANCE, WAS UNAWARE THAT THE CHILD WAS APPROACHING HIS DOOR. . .


STUMBLING THROUGH THE SNOW, THE CHILD ENTERED THE COTTAGE...


PITTY FIRE

ATTRACTED BY THE BLAZING HEARTH, SHE FELL ASLEEP ON MARNER'S SACK, DRYING ON THE BRICKS...

GUESS I'LL THROW A LOG ON THE FIRE!

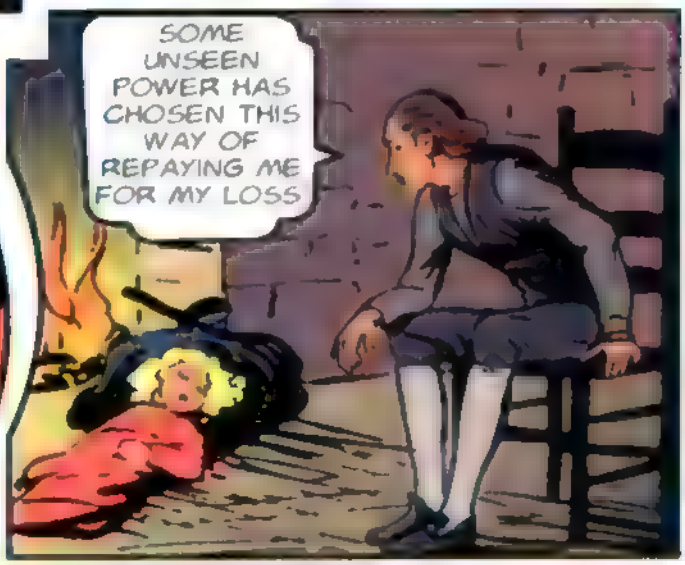
MARNER RECOVERED FROM HIS TRANCE.
I MUST HAVE BEEN STANDING HERE LONGER THAN I THOUGHT! BRRR! I'M CHILLED TO THE BONE

SUDDENLY, HIS EYE CAUGHT SIGHT OF A GOLDEN MASS ON THE SACK...
GOLD! MY PRECIOUS GOLD!

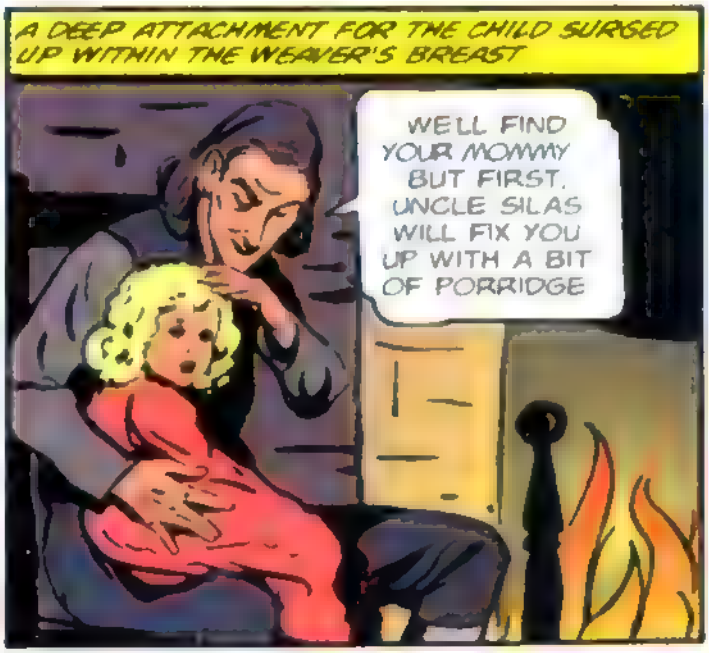
STRETCHING HIS HAND FORWARD TO GRASP THE GOLDEN MASS, HIS HAND TOUCHED THE SOFT WARM CURLS...

BLESS ME IF IT ISN'T A BABY GIRL!

THIS CANNOT BE! WHERE DID SHE COME FROM AND HOW IS IT I DID NOT SEE HER ENTER THE HOUSE?


SOME UNSEEN POWER HAS CHOSEN THIS WAY OF REPAYING ME FOR MY LOSS

A MOMENT LATER...
WHERE MOMMY?


A DEEP ATTACHMENT FOR THE CHILD SURGED UP WITHIN THE WEAVER'S BREAST
WE'LL FIND YOUR MOMMY BUT FIRST, UNCLE SILAS WILL FIX YOU UP WITH A BIT OF PORRIDGE

LATER...
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT SOME FOOD INTO YOUR LITTLE TUMMY WE'LL GO AND LOOK FOR YOUR MOMMY!
I'LL FOLLOW HER FOOT PRINTS IN THE SNOW!
GOOD GRIEF!
POOR WOMAN! SHE'S FROZEN STIFF!
PERHAPS IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FIND HELP FOR YOUR MOMMY, PRECIOUS!
MARNER HURRIED TO RED HOUSE TO FIND HELP FOR THE STRICKEN WOMAN

BACK AT RED HOUSE, GODFREY'S EYES WERE RIVITED ON NANCY, SEATED NEXT TO THE SQUIRE

SUDDENLY, HE WAS AWARE OF ALL EYES BEING FIXED ON THE DOOR . .

IT'S SILAS MARNER!

MY BABY!

WHAT'S THIS! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY COMING IN HERE THIS WAY?

I'VE COME FOR THE DOCTOR! I WANT THE DOCTOR!

WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER, MARNER? THE DOCTOR IS HERE, BUT SAY QUIETLY WHAT YOU WANT HIM FOR
IT'S A WOMAN! SHE'S DEAD, I THINK! IN THE SNOW AT THE STONE-PITS--NOT FAR FROM MY DOOR!

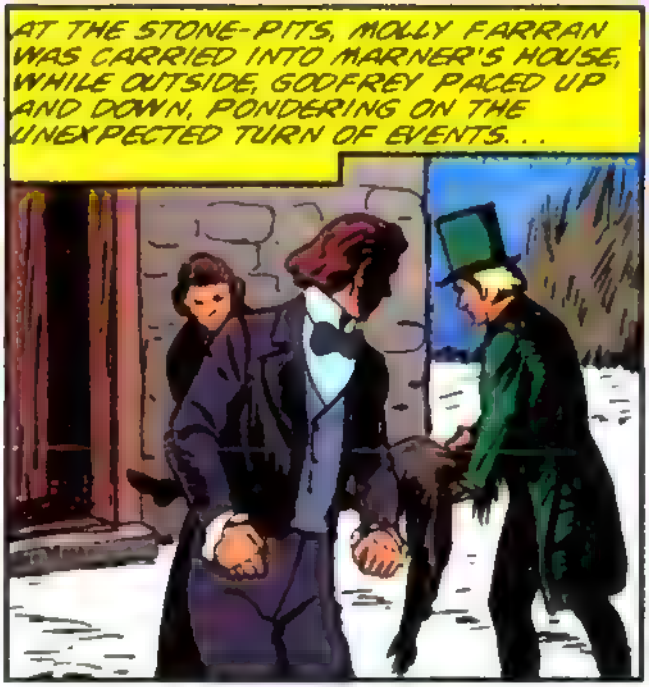
IT'S MOLLY! SHE'S DEAD!

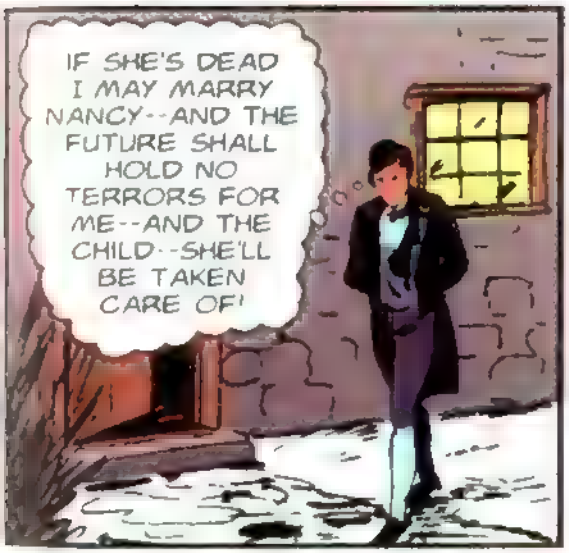
WHAT CHILD IS IT, GODFREY?
I-I DON'T KNOW! SOME POOR WOMAN'S--SHE WAS FOUND IN THE SNOW!

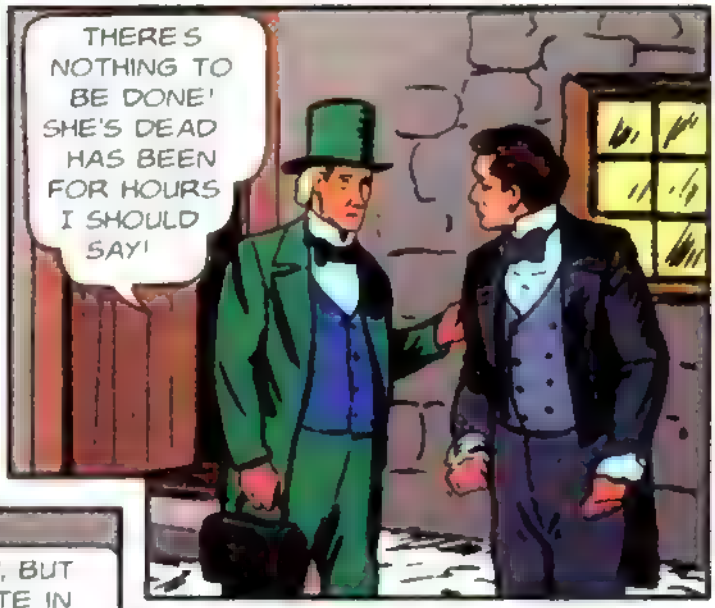
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE THE CHILD HERE, MASTER MARNER!
NO, NO I CAN'T PART WITH IT! IT CAME TO ME I'VE A RIGHT TO KEEP IT!

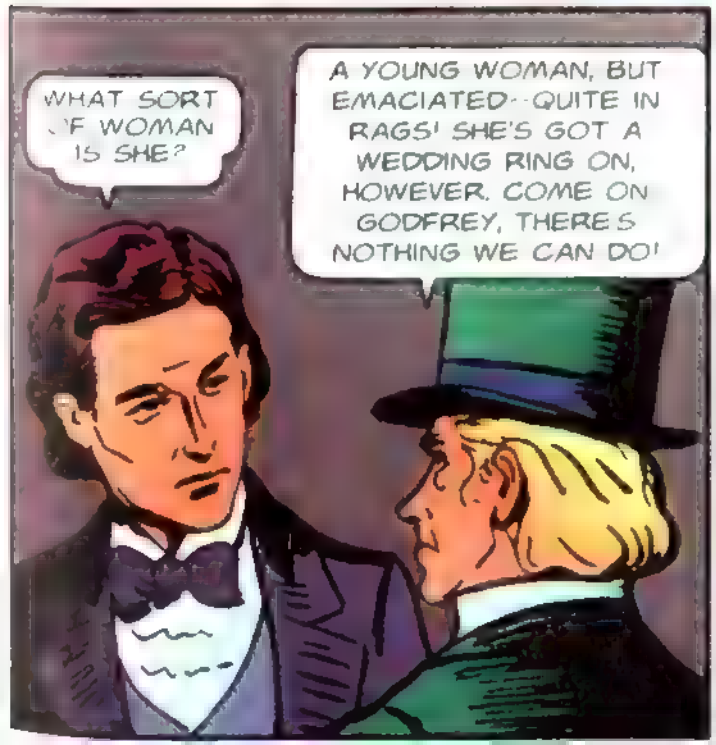
DID YOU EVER HEAR THE LIKE?

GODFREY FOLLOWED DR. KIMBLE AND MARNER TO THE STONE-PITS . .

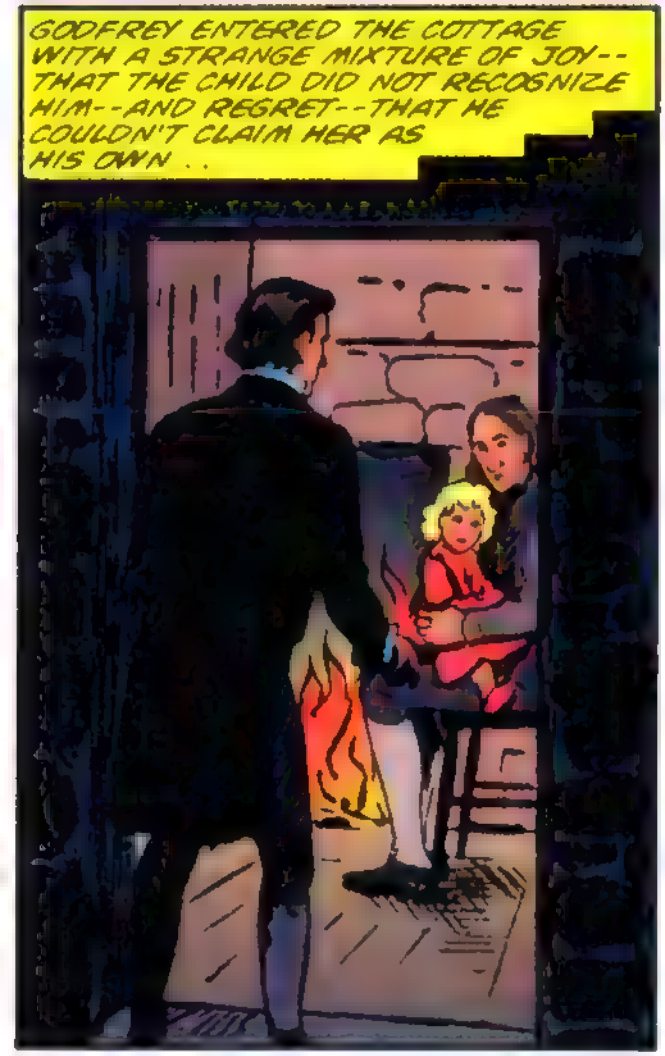

AT THE STONE-PITS, MOLLY FARRAN WAS CARRIED INTO MARNER'S HOUSE, WHILE OUTSIDE, GODFREY PACED UP AND DOWN, PONDERING ON THE UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS. . .


IF SHE'S DEAD I MAY MARRY NANCY--AND THE FUTURE SHALL HOLD NO TERRORS FOR ME--AND THE CHILD--SHE'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF!


THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE! SHE'S DEAD HAS BEEN FOR HOURS I SHOULD SAY!

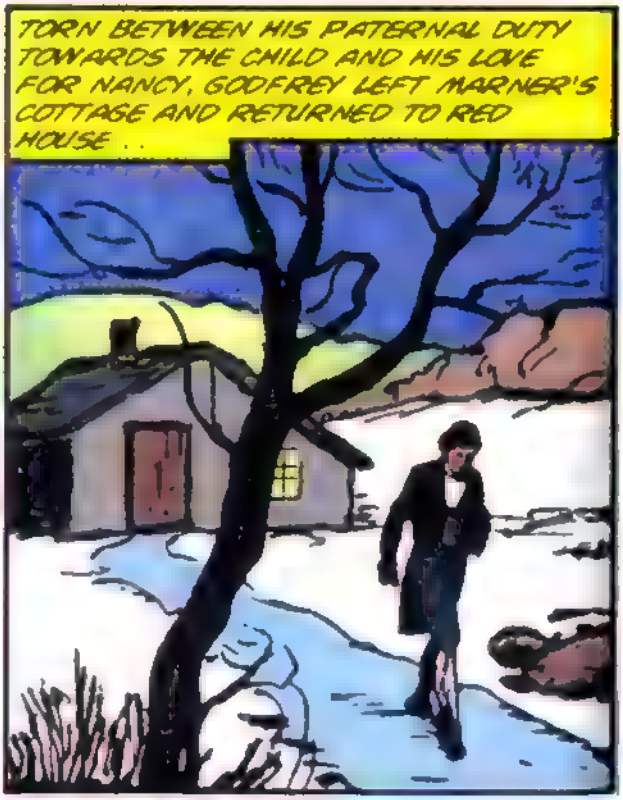

WHAT SORT OF WOMAN IS SHE?
A YOUNG WOMAN, BUT EMACIATED--QUITE IN RAGS! SHE'S GOT A WEDDING RING ON, HOWEVER. COME ON GODFREY, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!

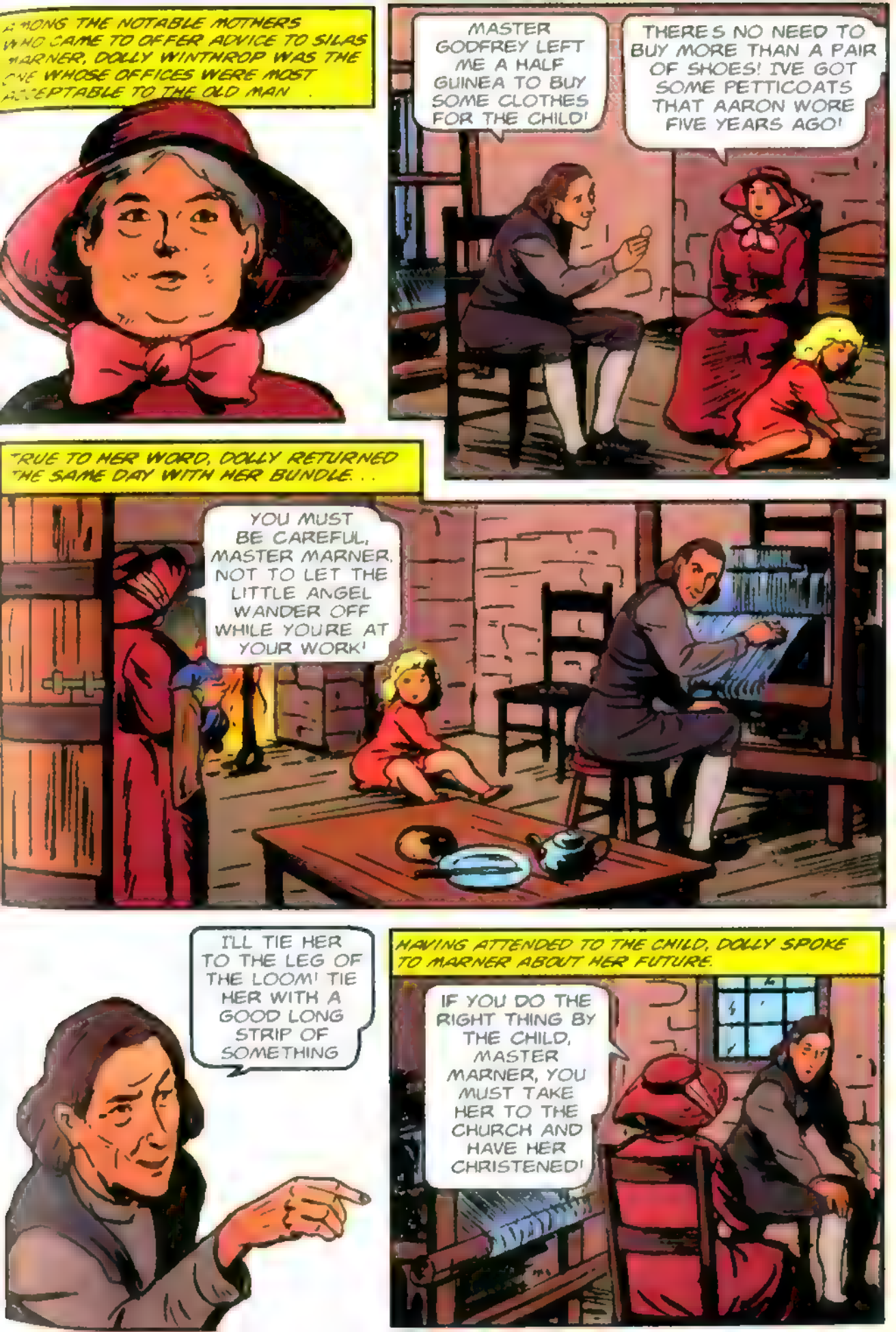
I'LL OVERTAKE YOU IN A MINUTE OR TWO! I WANT TO SPEAK TO MARNER!

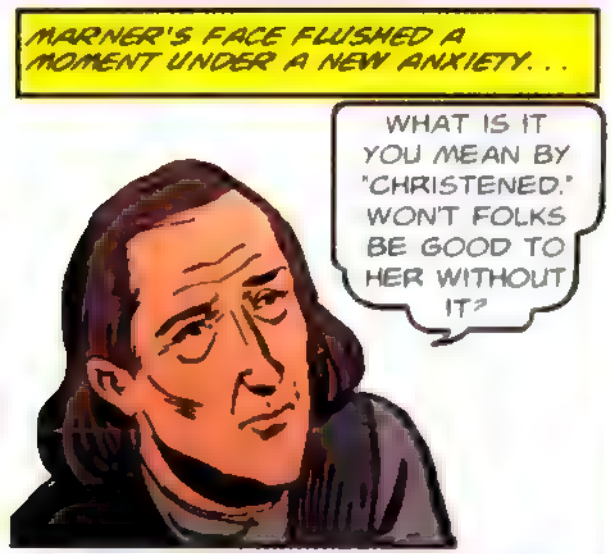

GODFREY ENTERED THE COTTAGE WITH A STRANGE MIXTURE OF JOY--THAT THE CHILD DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM--AND REGRET--THAT HE COULDN'T CLAIM HER AS HIS OWN . .

YOU'LL TAKE THE CHILD TO THE PARISH TOMORROW?
WHO SAYS SO? WILL THEY MAKE ME TAKE HER?

WHY? YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO KEEP HER, AN OLD BACHELOR LIKE YOU!
I'M A LONE THING, MASTER GODFREY AND SO IS SHE! MY MONEY'S GONE I DON'T KNOW WHERE AND THIS HAS COME FROM I DON'T KNOW WHERE!


TORN BETWEEN HIS PATERNAL DUTY TOWARDS THE CHILD AND HIS LOVE FOR NANCY, GODFREY LEFT MARNER'S COTTAGE AND RETURNED TO RED HOUSE . .


AMONG THE NOTABLE MOTHERS WHO CAME TO OFFER ADVICE TO SILAS MARNER, DOLLY WINTHROP WAS THE ONE WHOSE OFFICES WERE MOST ACCEPTABLE TO THE OLD MAN.
MASTER GODFREY LEFT ME A HALF GUINEA TO BUY SOME CLOTHES FOR THE CHILD!
THERE'S NO NEED TO BUY MORE THAN A PAIR OF SHOES! I'VE GOT SOME PETTICOATS THAT AARON WORE FIVE YEARS AGO!
TRUE TO HER WORD, DOLLY RETURNED THE SAME DAY WITH HER BUNDLE...
YOU MUST BE CAREFUL, MASTER MARNER, NOT TO LET THE LITTLE ANGEL WANDER OFF WHILE YOU'RE AT YOUR WORK!
I'LL TIE HER TO THE LEG OF THE LOOM! TIE HER WITH A GOOD LONG STRIP OF SOMETHING
HAVING ATTENDED TO THE CHILD, DOLLY SPOKE TO MARNER ABOUT HER FUTURE.
IF YOU DO THE RIGHT THING BY THE CHILD, MASTER MARNER, YOU MUST TAKE HER TO THE CHURCH AND HAVE HER CHRISTENED!


MARNER'S FACE FLUSHED A MOMENT UNDER A NEW ANXIETY. . .
WHAT IS IT YOU MEAN BY "CHRISTENED." WON'T FOLKS BE GOOD TO HER WITHOUT IT?

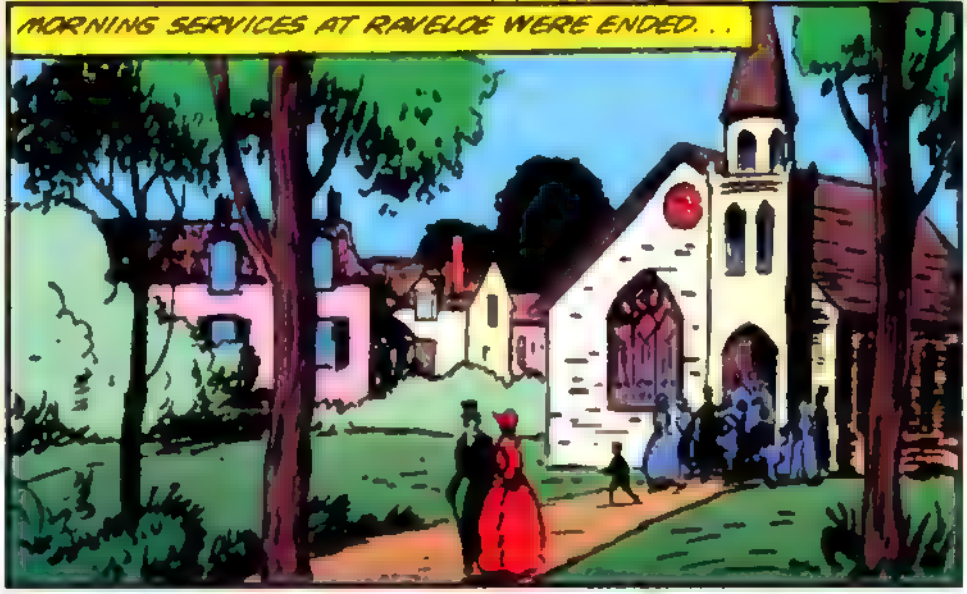
BUT I'LL TAKE HER TO CHURCH, MRS. WINTHROP! IF YOU THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING FOR THE CHILD, I'LL TAKE HER THERE AND HAVE HER CHRISTENED!

LATER. . .
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE ANGEL, MASTER MARNER! I'LL ASK MR. MACEY TO SPEAK TO THE PARSON ABOUT THE CHRISTENING

DEAR, DEAR, MASTER MARNER! HAD YOU NO FATHER NOR MOTHER WHO TAUGHT YOU TO SAY YOUR PRAYERS?
YES, I USED TO KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THAT-- BUT YOUR WAYS ARE DIFFERENT! MY COUNTRY WAS A GOOD WAY OFF

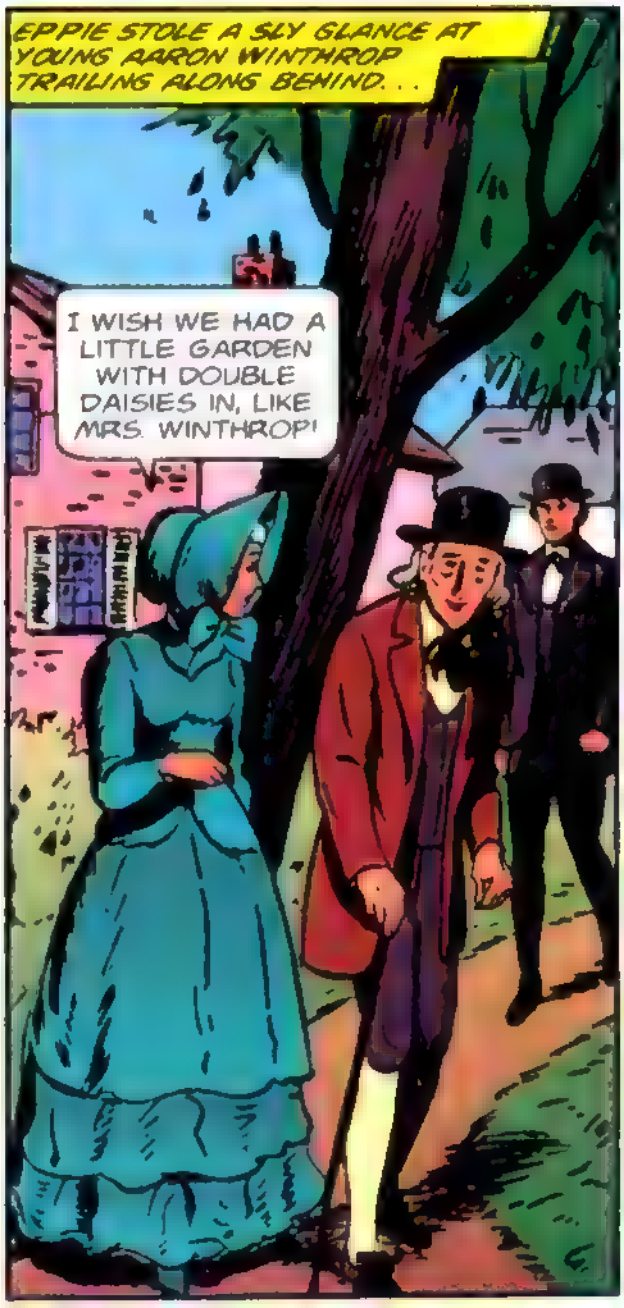
NEXT DAY, THE CHILD WAS BAPTIZED AND NAMED EPPIE, AFTER SILAS MARNER'S YOUNGER SISTER. . .

IT WAS A BRIGHT AUTUMN SUNDAY, SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER SILAS MARNER HAD FOUND EPPIE ON HIS HEARTH...


MORNING SERVICES AT RAVELOE WERE ENDED...

GODFREY CASS AND NANCY LAMMETER HAD NOW BEEN MARRIED FOR SIX YEARS...
I TRUST, BROTHER GODFREY, YOU AND MRS. CASS ENJOYED THE SERVICES
THEY WERE MOST IMPRESSIVE, PARSON!

AH, BROTHER SILAS! I MUST SAY OUR EPPIE BECOMES MORE CHARMING WITH THE YEARS!
THANK YOU PARSON!


EPPIE STOLE A SLY GLANCE AT YOUNG AARON WINTHROP TRAILING ALONG BEHIND...
I WISH WE HAD A LITTLE GARDEN WITH DOUBLE DAISIES IN, LIKE MRS. WINTHROP!

ONLY IT'D TAKE A DEAL OF DIGGING AND BRINGING FRESH SOIL - AND IT 'UD BE TOO HARD WORK FOR YOU, FATHER

AARON, M'LAD, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE! WELL, IF YOU COULD HELP ME WITH THE DIGGING, WE MIGHT GET HER A BIT 'O GARDEN ALL THE SOONER!

I CAN DIG FOR YOU MASTER MARNER! IT'LL BE PLAY FOR ME WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH MY DAY'S WORK! I COULD BRING YOU SOME SOIL FROM MR CASS'S GARDEN!

EPPIE CHIMED IN, HALF BASHFULLY AND HALF ROGUISHLY

I SHOULDN'T HA SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT FATHER ONLY MRS WINTHROP SAID AARON WOULD BE SO GOOD AS

AND YOU MIGHT HA KNOWN IT WITHOUT MOTHER TELLING YOU I'M ABLE AND WILLING TO DO A GOOD TURN FOR MASTER MARNER

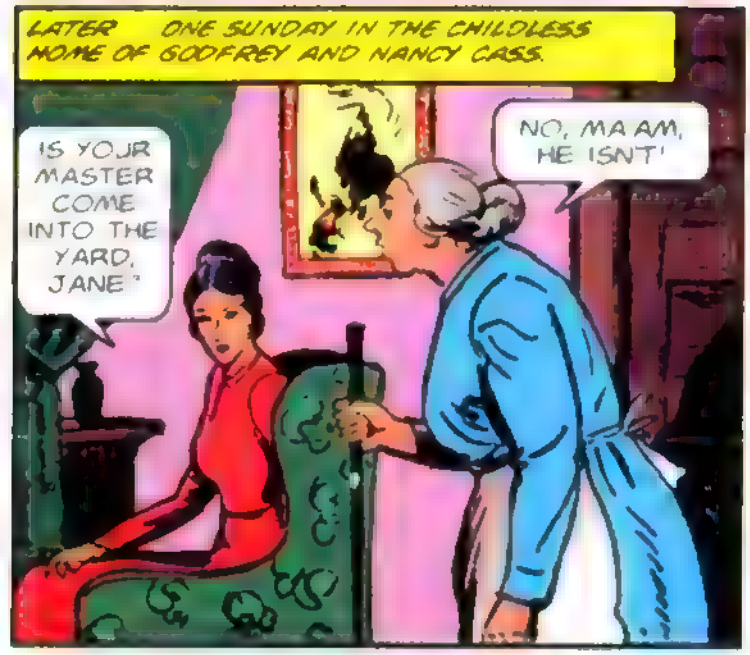
SEVERAL DAYS LATER.

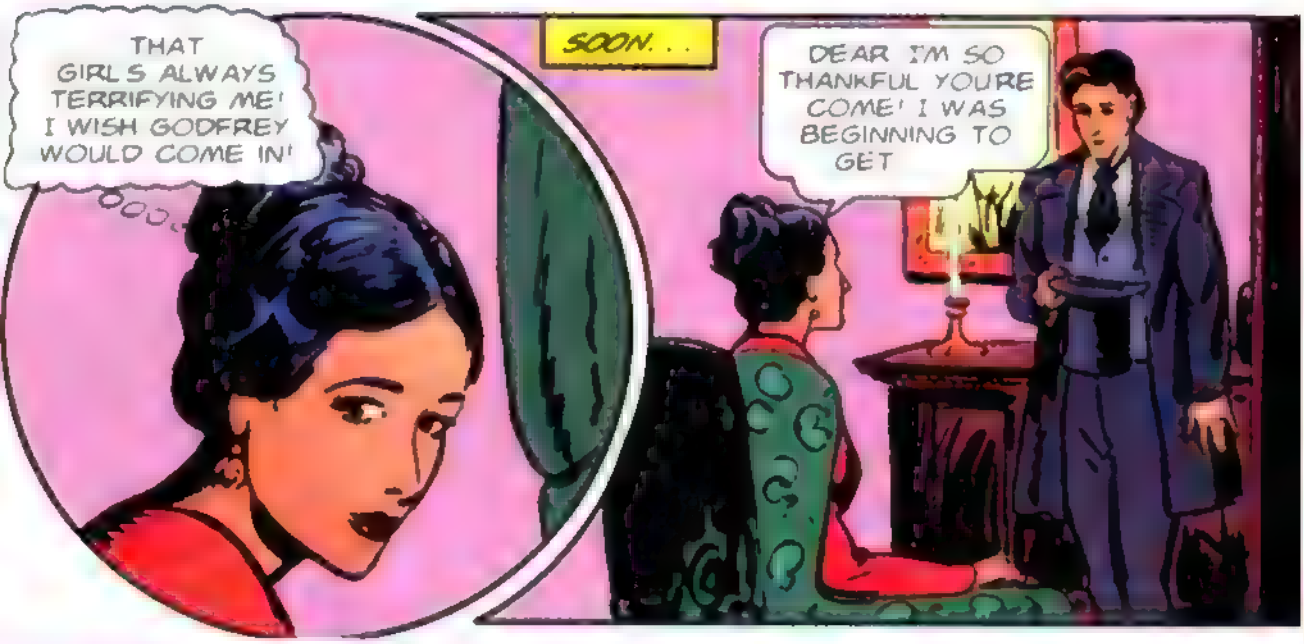
FATHER, IF I WAS TO BE MARRIED, OUGHT I TO BE MARRIED WITH MY MOTHER'S RING?

WHY, EPPIE! HA! YOU BEEN THINKIN' ON IT!

ONLY THIS LAST WEEK, FATHER, SINCE AARON TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT!

SILAS WAS FEARFUL OF LOSING EPPIE, BUT PROMISED TO SPEAK TO MRS. WINTHROP ABOUT IT





TREMBLING WITH EMOTION, GODFREY TOLD NANCY THAT THE SKELETON OF HIS MISSING BROTHER DUNSTAN HAD JUST BEEN FOUND, TOGETHER WITH THE MONEY WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM SILAS MARNER SIXTEEN YEARS BEFORE IN THE STONE-PITS. GODFREY THEN REVEALED THE GREAT SECRET WHICH HE HAD KEPT TO HIMSELF FOR OVER SIXTEEN YEARS, THE SECRET THAT EPPIE WAS IN REALITY HIS CHILD AND THAT MOLLY FARREN, THE WOMAN FOUND FROZEN TO DEATH NEAR THE STONE-PITS, HAD BEEN HIS WIFE.

THERE WAS NO INDIGNATION IN NANCY'S VOICE AS SHE SPOKE ONLY DEEP REGRET.

GODFREY, IF YOU HAD ONLY TOLD ME SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, WE COULD HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING BY THE CHILD

BUT YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MARRIED ME, DARLING, IF I HAD TOLD YOU! WITH YOUR PRIDE, AND YOUR FATHER'S, YOU WOULD HAVE HATED HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME!

NANCY ASSURED GODFREY THAT SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE MARRIED ANYONE ELSE. GODFREY ENTREATED HER TO ADOPT EPPIE AS THEIR CHILD SHE WAS AT FIRST RELUCTANT, BUT FINALLY GAVE IN.

THAT EVENING, WITHOUT DISCLOSING HIS RELATIONSHIP TO EPPIE, GODFREY OFFERED TO ADOPT HER

MARNER! NANCY AND I WISH TO ADOPT EPPIE!

EH! WHAT'S THIS!

WE'VE COME TO TAKE EPPIE AWAY FROM THIS DRAB EXISTENCE AND BRING HER UP IN A MANNER MORE FITTING WITH A WITH A GIRL OF HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

FOR A MOMENT, SILAS SAT THERE TREMBLING WITH EMOTION, THEN

EPPIE MY CHILD, SPEAK! I WONT STAND IN YOUR WAY! THANK MR AND MRS CASS!

HER CHEEKS FLUSHED, BUT NOT WITH SHYNESS THIS TIME, EPPIE STEPPED FORWARD, DROPPING A LOW COURTESY TO THEIR VISITORS...
THANK YOU, MA'AM! THANK YOU, SIR!

BUT I CAN'T LEAVE MY FATHER AND I DON'T WANT TO BE A LADY! I COULD NOT GIVE UP THE FOLKS I'VE BEEN USED TO!

BUT I HAVE A CLAIM ON YOU, EPPIE! THE STRONGEST OF ALL CLAIMS! MARNER, EPPIE IS MY CHILD HER MOTHER WAS MY WIFE!

RELIEVED BY EPPIE'S REPLY, MARNER RETORTED FIERCELY...
THEN, SIR, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SIXTEEN YEARS AGO? WHY DID YOU NOT CLAIM HER BEFORE I LEARNED TO LOVE HER, INSTEAD OF COMING TO ME NOW WHEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL TAKE MY HEART!

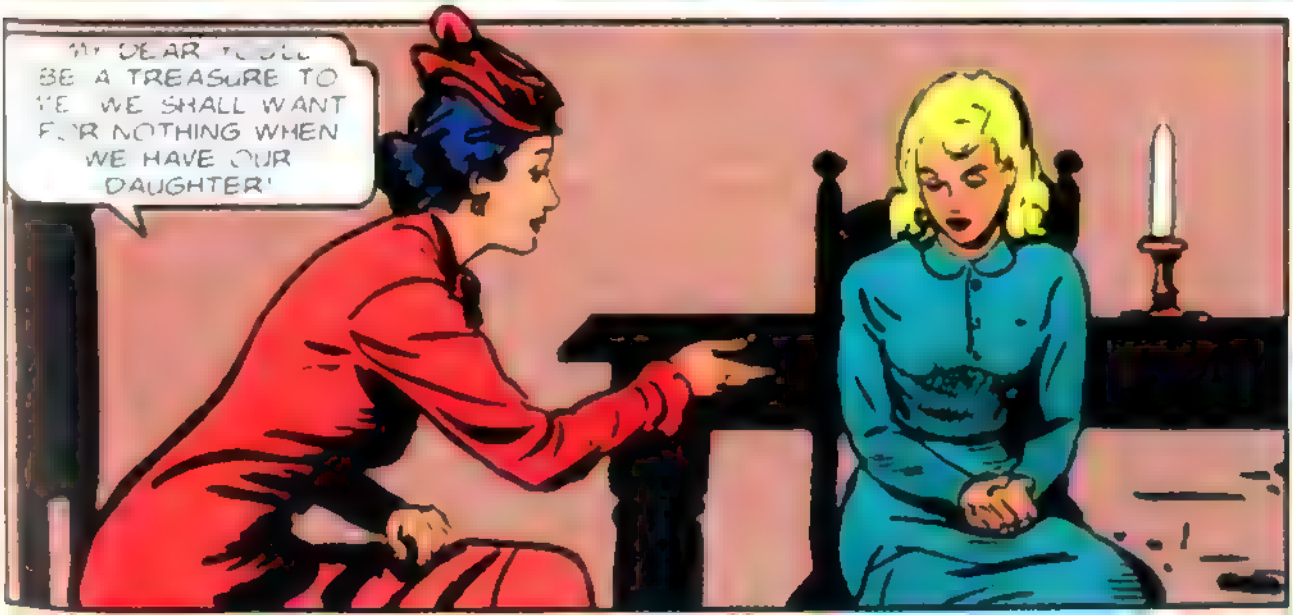
I KNOW THAT, MARNER I WAS WRONG! I'VE REPENTED OF MY CONDUCT IN THAT MATTER.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT SIR! BUT REPENTANCE DOESN'T ALTER WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR FIFTEEN YEARS! IT IS ME SHE'S BEEN CALLING HER FATHER EVER SINCE SHE COULD SAY THE WORD

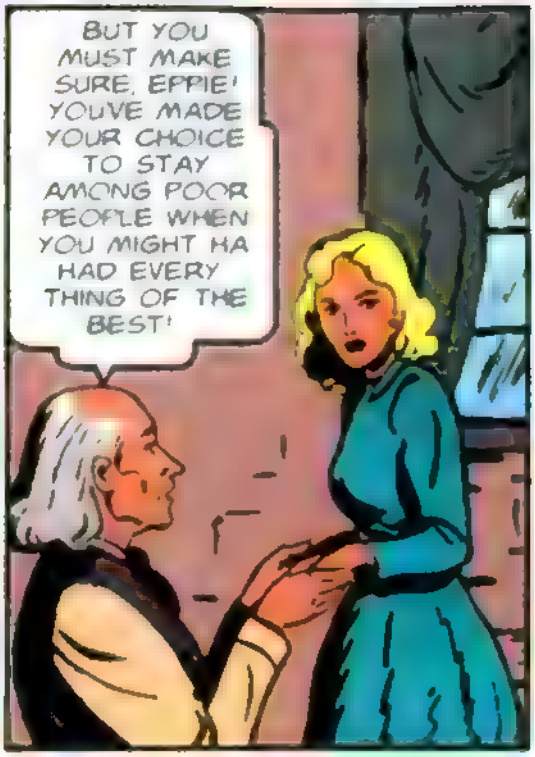
I MUST WARN YOU, MARNER, YOU'RE PUTTING YOURSELF IN THE WAY OF THE CHILD'S WELFARE! I'M SORRY TO HURT YOU AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE BUT I MUST INSIST ON TAKING CARE OF MY OWN DAUGHTER!

GODFREY'S WORDS HAD THEIR EFFECT ON MARNER
I'LL SAY NO MORE LET IT BE AS YOU WILL! SPEAK TO THE CHILD I'LL HINDER NOTHING!

EPPIE, MY DEAR, SAY YOU WILL COME WITH US! YOU'LL HAVE THE BEST OF MOTHERS IN MY WIFE THAT'LL BE A BLESSING TO YOU ALWAYS!

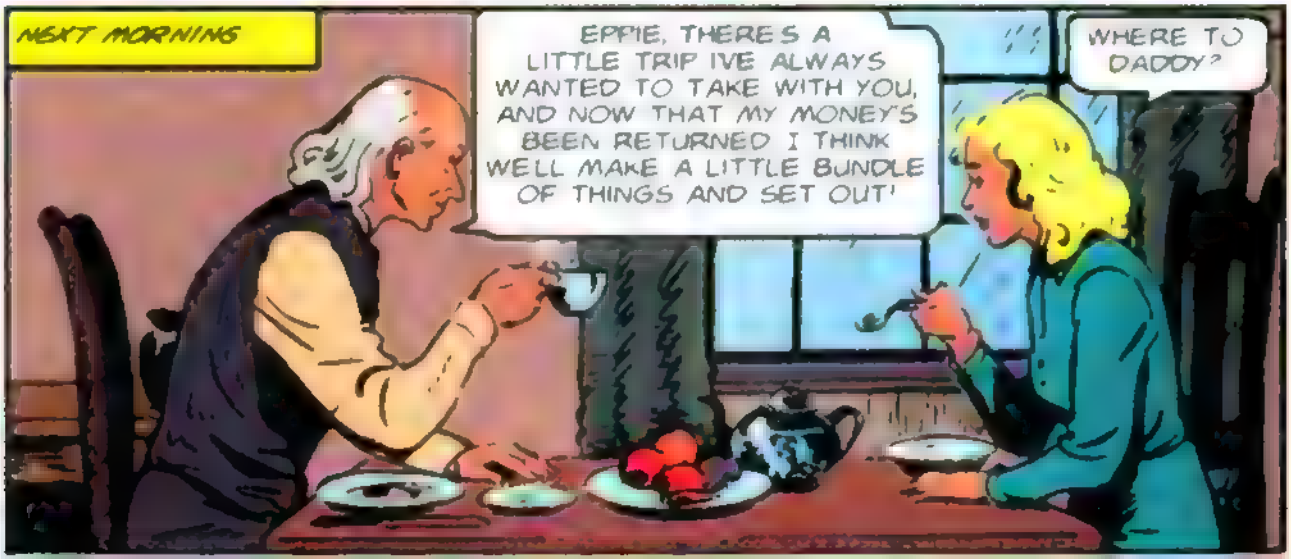

MY DEAR YOU'LL BE A TREASURE TO US WE SHALL WANT FOR NOTHING WHEN WE HAVE OUR DAUGHTER!

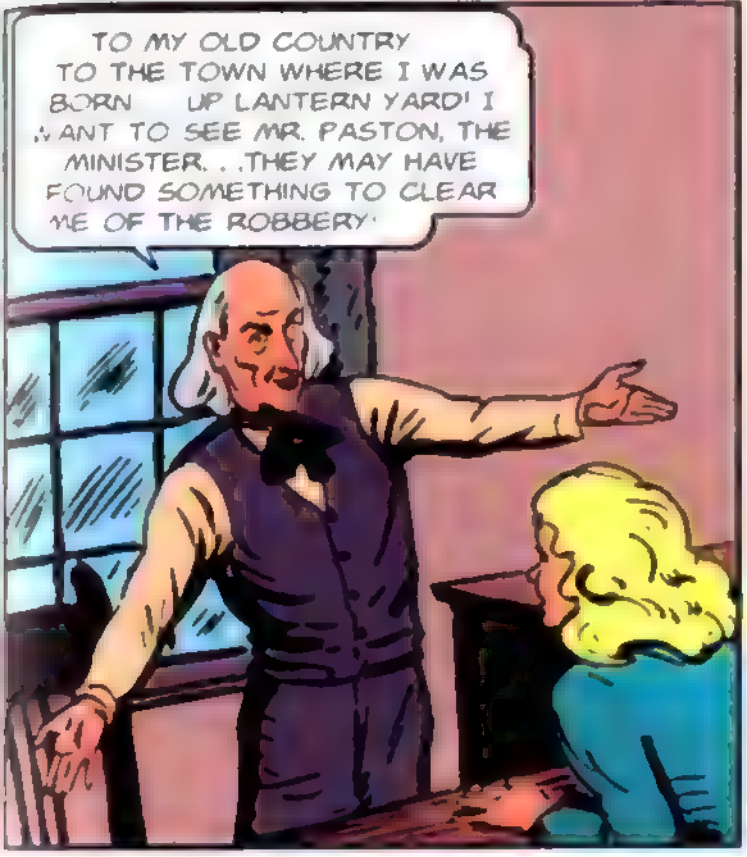
EPPIE DID NOT CURTSY AS SHE DID BEFORE. GRASPING SILAS'S HAND FIRMLY IN HERS, SHE SPOKE OUT IN COLDER DECISION.
THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR OFFERS! BUT I SHALL NEVER BE HAPPY WITHOUT BEING HERE WITH MY FATHER, NO MATTER HOW HUMBLE THE SURROUNDINGS! AS LONG AS HE LIVES, NOBODY SHALL EVER COME BETWEEN US!


BUT YOU MUST MAKE SURE, EPPIE! YOU'VE MADE YOUR CHOICE TO STAY AMONG POOR PEOPLE WHEN YOU MIGHT HA HAD EVERY THING OF THE BEST!

I CAN NEVER BE SORRY, FATHER! WHAT COULD I CARE FOR THINGS I'VE NEVER BEEN USED TO! I BELONG HERE WITH YOU!

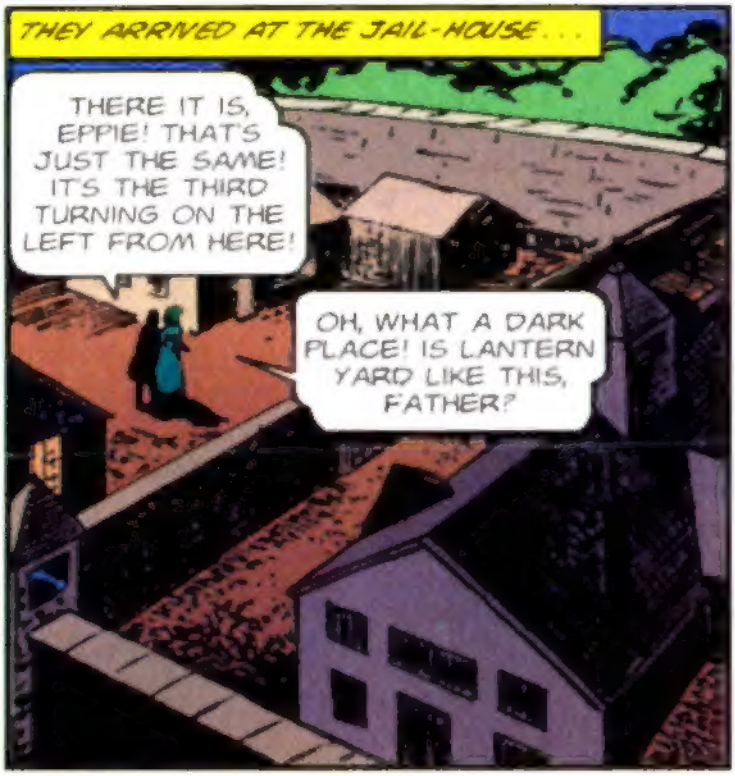
THEIR PLEAS HAVING FALLEN ON DEAF EARS, GODFREY AND NANCY TOOK THEIR LEAVE AND RETURNED TO RED HOUSE. . .


NEXT MORNING
EPPIE, THERE'S A LITTLE TRIP I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TAKE WITH YOU, AND NOW THAT MY MONEY'S BEEN RETURNED I THINK WE'LL MAKE A LITTLE BUNDLE OF THINGS AND SET OUT!
WHERE TO DADDY?


TO MY OLD COUNTRY TO THE TOWN WHERE I WAS BORN UP LANTERN YARD! I WANT TO SEE MR. PASTON, THE MINISTER. . .THEY MAY HAVE FOUND SOMETHING TO CLEAR ME OF THE ROBBERY!

OH, DADDY THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL! IT'LL BE GOOD TO GET AWAY FROM RAVELOE FOR A BIT!

FOUR DAYS LATER, SILAS AND EPPIE FOUND THEMSELVES ON THE STREETS OF A GREAT MANUFACTURING TOWN, IN THE VICINITY OF LANTERN YARD.
I HARDLY RECOGNIZE THE PLACE, EPPIE! IT'S YEARS SINCE I LEFT LANTERN YARD!
WHY NOT ASK THIS MAN THE WAY TO THE YARD?
HE WOULDN'T KNOW! GENTLE FOLK DIDN'T EVER GO UP TO THE YARD! I'LL ASK THE WAY TO PRISON STREET. . . THAT'S WHERE THE JAIL IS! I KNOW MY WAY OUT O THAT AS IF I'D SEEN IT YESTERDAY



JOURNEY'S END, AT LAST...

DEAR HEART! WHY, THERE'RE PEOPLE COMING OUT O' THE YARD AS IF THEY'D BEEN AT CHAPEL AT THIS TIME O' DAY--A WEEK-DAY NOON!

FOR MINUTES, SILAS STOOD WRAPPED IN DISTANT MEMORIES AND AMAZED AT THE CHANGE THAT HAD COME OVER HIS FORMER HOME...

FATHER, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

IT'S GONE, CHILD! LANTERN YARD'S GONE. I SHALL NEVER KNOW NOW WHETHER THEY GOT AT THE TRUTH OF THE ROBBERY!

EPPIE WAS FEARFUL LEST ONE OF HER FATHER'S STRANGE ATTACKS SHOULD COME ON...
COME INTO THAT LITTLE BRUSH SHOP AND SIT DOWN, FATHER! PERHAPS THE PEOPLE CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
BRUSH SHOP
IN THE BRUSH SHOP...
SORRY, STRANGER! I NEVER HEARD OF MR. PASTON OR ANY OF THOSE OTHER PEOPLE YOU MENTIONED! THE FACTORY WAS ALREADY BUILT WHEN I CAME HERE!
THEIR QUEST ENDED, MARNER AND EPPIE RETURNED TO RAVELOE. MARNER WAS RESIGNED TO THE FACT THAT HE WOULD NEVER KNOW WHETHER OR NOT HIS NAME HAD BEEN CLEARED IN LANTERN YARD.
SOME TIME LATER WHEN THE GREAT LILACS AND LABURNUMS IN THE OLD-FASHIONED GARDENS OF RAVELOE SHOWED THEIR GOLDEN AND PURPLE WEALTH, PREPARATIONS WERE MADE FOR THE MARRIAGE OF EPPIE AND AARON WINTHROP.
THE BELLS IN THE CHURCH BELFRY RANG OUT MERRILY...
WHAT'S THE OCCASION, DEACON, A WEDDIN'?
A WEDDING INDEED! IT'S THE MARNER GIRL AND YOUNG AARON WINTHROP!
IN SILAS MARNER'S COTTAGE...
I'LL BE TWICE BLESSED-- AND THE HAPPIEST MAN IN RAVELOE!
YOU WON'T BE GIVING ME AWAY, FATHER! YOU'LL BE TAKING AARON TO BE A SON TO YOU!

THE CEREMONY ENDED, THE WEDDING PROCESSION RETURNED FROM THE CHURCH...

MR. MACEY'S LOOKING FOR A WORD FROM US! HE'LL BE HURT IF WE PASS HIM AND SAY NOTHING!

WELL, MASTER MARNER, I'VE LIVED TO SEE MY WORDS COME TRUE! I WAS THE FIRST TO SAY THERE WAS NO HARM IN YOU... AND I WAS THE FIRST TO SAY YOU'D GET YOUR MONEY BACK! GOOD LUCK!

EPPIE AND HER HUSBAND WENT TO LIVE WITH SILAS MARNER AT THE COTTAGE WHICH HAD BEEN FIXED OVER AT THE EXPENSE OF GODFREY CASS TO SUIT SILAS' LARGER FAMILY...

OH, FATHER! WHAT A PRETTY HOME OURS IS! I THINK NOBODY COULD BE HAPPIER THAN WE ARE!

TEARS WELLED IN OLD MARNER'S EYES AT THE REALIZATION THAT HE WAS TO SHARE EPPIE'S HAPPINESS IN THE FEW REMAINING YEARS ALLOTTED TO HIM...

THE END

Betrayed by his best friend and rejected by the woman he loves, Silas Marner lives as a loveless miser for years... until the day chance steals his meager fortune but leaves a child at his door. Marner adopts the child, Eppie, and she becomes the center of his world, his shining gold. But Eppie has secret ties to a wealthy family, ties that may take Marner's one joy from him. The heartbreak of the past threatens the future in George Eliot's masterwork, *Silas Marner*.

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